My spare room,

Not the NISCU NL office!

Thursday 26th March 2020

(A year we won’t ever forget!)

Dear Praying Friends,

There is so much to pray for I thought I’d send you the headteachers’ requests from this week.

Let me just quote some of the emails I have received (but I won’t say which school to maintain confidentiality):-

* It has been a tough couple of weeks for many people.
* The staff are frightened and unsettled as I'm sure you can imagine. I think it was hard for them listening to Boris last night telling us it was vital to stay in with our families when they know we are being asked to stay in work. Nobody signs up for being a primary school teacher thinking they will be on the front line. To everyone's credit though they are still turning up and getting on with it.
* Staff have been brilliant. Didn’t even flinch when I told them that we’d prob be open over Easter with no extra pay… 😊 They have been ace. But I did send one home with [the dreaded] symptoms yesterday.
* It's been a tough week but we seem to be settling in to the new order of things. We had around 30 children Monday and this has halved as the week is going on. I think parents are realising home is the safest place. We have a skeleton staff rota in place in order to try and reduce risk to staff and let us go on for longer. It's an important job! We have been asked to work over the Easter break - staff have been very good about it.
* We are all supporting each other and taking it one day at a time. Lots of talking and checking up on each other.
* Prayer is much appreciated. We are quite busy as we serve a fair few NHS parents.
* It’s tricky juggling everything; from your own family's needs, colleagues; friends’ needs, parents and their demands! whilst maintaining a sense of reality and mental balance. I expect most are finding this a challenge.
* It’s hard when some schools are putting off key worker parents and not looking after their vulnerable children just so they can close. It would be great to do that and protect the staff…It would be an enormous relief BUT we have been asked to look after the vulnerable and key workers.
* Strange and difficult times for us all.
* Prayers needed here please. School has 16 children with a few staff but last Friday we had the awful news that one of our TA's died, she left school on Tuesday afternoon with a headache and has now passed away. We are all in deep shock and are not a family together due to this corona virus. Normally we would be having Mass and doing other acts of remembrance but we can't. We are looking into an online book of condolences. It’s been and is tough but we are doing what we can and we will keep going to ensure we do our best. She has two girls she leaves behind. All very sudden so your prayers are essential. Sorry to write this in an email but thought it would be good to have the more prayers the better.

I think those words say it all. Please take a few minutes today to lift our staff to God in prayer, knowing He is able to give peace that passes understanding. Thank you so much.

On Christ the Rock we stand,

Debbie

(NISCU North Lancs primary schools’ worker)