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Headteacher: Mr C King

19th March 2020

Coronavirus – School Closure

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our school is fantastic.

Fantastic children. Fantastic staff families. Fantastic staff team. I couldn't ask for a better job.

These are very uncertain times; but as I've said to some of our older children these times are not forever. Yes, from tomorrow afternoon, we have been instructed to close as a school to almost all children. This is not ideal but it is important that we all work to limit the spread of coronavirus. It is a short term frustration that will have a long lasting benefit for our community.

But it is not forever. We will be coming back. When we do come back, we will be coming back stronger than when we closed.

It is hard because of the backdrop we are presented with on a day to day basis but, as a school leader I can see some real positives that may spring from it. Will we see a change in statutory assessment and what is viewed as important at schools? Will there be a change in the focus of OFSTED? We will have a group of children who will have changed the way they work so that they become truly independent learners.

Naturally though, there will be questions. I don't have the answers to all of these yet, but I hope to have them soon.

With regard to the government's statement of schools being open to key workers' children and vulnerable children, we have yet to receive clarification of what this means. When we do, we will be sending out further information and will ask parents who qualify to contact us as soon as they can. As I'm sure you will appreciate, there will be logistical considerations that will need to be resolved. We will be looking to offer this facility to eligible children from Tuesday next week. We will put out more guidance as soon as we can.

Learning at home

For the majority of our families we will be moving towards school work at home.

As per our previous communications we will be creating a home-learning system that parents can access at home:

- Topic work as outlined on the topic sheets – these have been sent home in books already.
- Tasks will be placed on the class blogs – located on individual class pages on our website. Parents are advised that these should be checked daily.
- Daily reading
- Daily access to Times Table Rockstars
- Year Six also have folders of practice test papers



Children are welcome to look at other class blogs for tasks to do if they are finding work too challenging or too easy e.g. If the child is in year three, they could look at the year two blog for work that is easier to complete independently. Equally, they could look to the year four blog for a greater challenge. The approach to school work should be flexible and adapt to your needs as a family.

We are aware of a number of websites that are offering free access to resources for learning at home and will be signposting to them on our class blogs as well.

Work will not be set on the blogs during the Easter Holidays. We would encourage children to maintain their reading and times tables work. Work will continue to be set once the school term resumes.

We are also in the process of finalising arrangements for moving to a virtual school using Google Classroom. This can be accessed on tablets, phones (Android and iOS), PCs and Macs. We will be sending guides to parents once they have been completed. *If you do not have one of these devices, please contact us as soon as possible.*

Communication

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the capabilities for school communication during a school closure:

Our communication will be limited. *As school is operating on a “mostly closed” footing, it is not likely that telephone calls will be answered. Email will be monitored but we may not be able to respond to emails as quickly as we would do normally so please be patient.*

Any developments will be relayed to parents as soon as we are able via School Comms (school email).

Messages may be brief. *To avoid ambiguity, messages sent out after a school closure will be short, to the point and designed to be a one way communication out from school.*

We will be staying in touch! Please don't be surprised if you get a phone call from us - we will be missing the children and their families. We will be looking forward to speaking with the children, seeing how they are getting on in their learning and if there is anything they or the family needs that we can assist with.

Please call us/email us if you need help! One of the best things to come out of this crisis is that it has brought us closer together as a community. We will still be there for our families. We may not be able to work in the same way during the closure but our priorities remain the same: children's learning, happiness and well-being. Please do not feel you are alone.

At the moment, I'm not sure how the events of the next few weeks are going to pan out. I can say though with certainty: Our children will be stronger. Our children will still have learnt. Our community will be closer and possibly, most important of all: we will be having a Rounders Evening. I don't know when - but we will. It will be brilliant fun with our whole community together. But more importantly, I feel this could be the staff's year for winning...

Yours sincerely,

Mr King