



17th March 2020

Coronavirus Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

These are strange times for us all to be working in; I'm not sure I've written as many letters for school in such a short period of time before! Nevertheless, I would like to start off by saying thank you to you all for remaining calm and allowing school to carry on.

Forest School and Volunteers

We are continuing to run Forest School and if you have volunteered to join us for our Forest School then you are still welcome to join us.

We would ask that volunteers follow the same guidance that our staff and children are following and that they should not come to school if:

- They demonstrate a new persistent cough and/or a high temperature.
- We would also ask that volunteers in specific groups avoid coming to school:
- Those over the age of 70
- Adults who are eligible for a free flu vaccination **due to a long-term health condition**
- Those who are immunocompromised

If you are unsure if these apply to you as a volunteer then please do contact me and I will be able to talk with you in confidence.

School events and clubs

Next week will be the last week of school clubs (Badgers and Breakfast Club will continue to run until the Easter Holidays). We are planning to run clubs as usual until we are guided otherwise. No club is compulsory and if you would rather your child didn't attend an afterschool club then we would support you in this decision.

We will wait and review the latest guidance before we send out new club information after the Easter Holidays.

We are having to postpone our **RSHE** evening for parents. We had originally intended to hold it on 26th March. We do not currently have an alternative date but will let parents know the new date as soon as we can.

Easter Egg Roll. We will be sending home our annual Easter Egg Roll letter this week. We are still planning to do our Egg Roll; however, we will need to limit attendance to children and staff only. Children who are not at school are still welcome to decorate an egg and send a picture in by email!

Trips

We have a number of trips coming up. We will liaise with the Local Authority and parents on a trip by trip basis and let parents affected know as soon as we can.



Learning in the event of school closure

The message we are receiving from the Department for Education remains clear: schools are to stay open. I have no additional information or guidance as to if or when this will change.

We will continue to remain open providing we are able to maintain staffing levels and are able to sustain requirements for health and safety.

We have sent details our regarding home-learning in the event of a school closure. They currently consist of:

- Topic work as outlined on the topic sheets – these have been sent home 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

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.

We, as a school, understand that every home is different and that children will be accessing the work in different ways and at different times to their peers. We understand that this can put pressure on families. Again I would like to reiterate that as a school we would be happy knowing a child has made a reasonable attempt at a task and appreciate that support a parent may be able to give is limited.

We are investigating online learning platforms that can be used in the event of a prolonged closure and are trialling this with a small group and class this week. We will of course give parents more information once we have confirmed details.

Normality!

What has been lovely to see as I've walked through the classrooms is that children have been focused, engaged in their learning and having fun. Today, I have heard singing, peeped through Year Six's class window and been given a look by one of the children because I'm interrupting their tests, seen Robins being brilliantly creative in their dance in the hall and much more. Against the back drop of everything that is going on our children are an island of (relative) calm and continue to be a source of pride for our school community.

What next?

We will make parents aware of any developments as soon as we can. We will strive to give as much notice as possible but ask that you all continue to be amazing and give us your patience, understanding and support.

If you would like to talk with me or a member of the senior leadership team, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mr King