



21st March 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support and understanding during the last week when we have had many times where we have been uncertain of what is happening. We are extremely lucky to have such a supportive body of parents.

Yesterday was a sad day for all members of our school community. Saying goodbye to the children who were in school and not knowing when we will all be together again was very upsetting for everyone. Then there are also the children who were not in school who we were unable to say goodbye to. Those of you who were not with us, we have missed you at school this week. We look forward to see you all again, whenever that may be.

During this time when we are not seeing you we will stay in contact via email and text message. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need our help or support.

Contact with staff

All teaching staff now have parent email addresses. They will contact you at some point on Monday. They will suggest work to be completed during the week from the workbooks and possible other activities.

If you have any questions please email them and ask, they will definitely respond to emails between 9am and 11am.

Workbooks

The children have all received workbooks so that they are able to complete work during this time. When we purchased the books at the beginning of the week (in case schools closed) I naively thought that at worst case we would be closed for two weeks and then could see the work completed by the children after the Easter holiday.

It now seems highly unlikely that this will be the case so I would like to arrange a way for staff to be able to look at the work children are completing at home whilst avoiding the risk of contamination. In order to do this, I would ask for the following procedure to be followed –

- Workbooks will be handed in on alternate Friday afternoons (between 3pm and 4pm).
- There will be a box placed outside the school front door and parents will be asked to place all their child's work in the box.
- When placing work in the box please do not congregate. If another parent is in the area please wait for them to leave.
- The box will then be placed inside school over the weekend so that any germs will have time to die.
- Staff will then mark the work completed on Monday, giving feedback and suggestions for other activities to help.
- For this to be most useful please comment on the work your children complete, e.g. Fred needed help with this, we did this together, Fred completed this on his own. From this staff will be able to provide suggestions to support or stretch your child.

- You will be able to collect work on a Tuesday morning.
- Please make sure all workbooks are named.

As a staff we are keen to ensure the children continue to learn during this time and this system should allow us to support you at home as much as we can.

Please understand that this routine will be reviewed and may change over time.

Reading Books

When you drop the work at school the reading book boxes will also be outside. You will then be able to change reading books at this time.

Other Ideas

During this time it is important to remember to look after your health and well-being. Exercise is a great way of doing this. At school we will be participating in the Joe Wicks PE lesson, maybe you can join us too!



Over the next few weeks we will be developing a page on each school website with suggestions of activities, websites and apps for the children to use. I will send more information when we have started this. Many educational sites have given free access to their resources during this time so these will be included.

Information from the Government

“From Friday 20 March schools, childcare and other educational settings are closed for everyone except:

- children of critical workers
- vulnerable children

We have published guidance for parents and carers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>



Critical workers

If parents' work is critical to the coronavirus response, their children will be prioritised for early years and education provision.

The Government has published a list of critical workers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>”

I am hoping I have covered everything. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions or need information clarifying.

Best wishes

Teresa Bosely
Head Teacher