



11th May 2020

Dear Parents

COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURES

I am sure that, like me, you watched the Prime Minister's announcement with interest last night. In recent weeks there has been a great deal of speculation about the re-opening of schools and we received a little more information last night.

Our priority, of course, must be to keep our children and staff safe and, to this end, we are working closely with the Department for Education and local authority to establish the measures that must be taken to ensure that it is safe for children and staff to return to school.

There is no certainty at this stage that schools will re-open after half term, but we are now beginning to prepare for the Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 6 to return. The reality is that these year groups, plus the children of key workers, comprise over half of our school roll and it would not be physically possible to accommodate all the children at the same time while maintaining safe social distancing. It is likely, therefore, that children in these year groups will attend school part-time while continuing to complete some home learning. At this stage, we are considering splitting classes into smaller groups who would attend school on certain days. There would be staggered start and finish times, along with breaks including lunchtimes, to reduce social interaction.

All other year groups will, at this stage, continue to learn from home. We have been awarded some additional funding to facilitate home learning and are now in the process of setting up Google Classroom in conjunction with our IT provider. I cannot tell you at this stage when this will become available, but we hope that it will prove a valuable platform for home learning until we return to normality and into the future. I have also been trying since the closure of schools to organise a home reading scheme through Bug Club: as you might imagine, the company were overwhelmed with demand, but I am pleased to say that I have been offered a training webinar this week and so hope that this is something we can facilitate in the near future.

As information becomes available, I will attempt to keep you as up to date as I can. In the meantime, I would like, once again, to thank you for your valiant efforts to maintain learning at home during this period. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Mrs HR Simms

Headteacher