



20.04.20 – May half term update

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the start of a very unusual new term, I want to update you with contact information and e-learning for the next few weeks. As you will be aware, schools had to close very suddenly. We had already put into place the Gmail accounts to send work home in the event of closure. Unfortunately, we have had a quarter of our staff ill with symptoms consistent with coronavirus and the site had to close completely for two weeks and undergo deep cleaning after a suitably safe period. We were able to re-open a small portion of the site over Easter to care for the children of key workers, looked after by members of staff who volunteered to work the holiday period.

Staff have been sending work by Gmail and would really appreciate it if you could reply and update them with where the children are up to. Staff have been working on plans to cover the next half term up to May, and will be in regular contact with you via Gmail to send work and provide advice. Maxine and Sarah Collins will also be making welfare calls to parents for support. There is a member of office staff and a senior leader on site on a rota if you need to make telephone contact with school over any concerns. We are keeping the number of staff onsite to a minimum to avoid the risk of spreading coronavirus, so staff not needed for the care offer are working from home on the e learning package.

Your contact with your class team: there is a staffing rota in place so there is always a teacher monitoring communication and setting work. This will usually be your class teacher, but where the class teacher is on rota in school providing care, it may be another teacher who knows the class. There is also cover if the class teacher is ill. There is a similar rota for TAs who will also be in regular touch with you. The work we are sending out is tailored to allow your child to access it easily and make progress, so please let the class team know if you're finding it difficult to access or need more or less work. We have already delivered paper packages of work for parents who have been in touch about limited internet access, so please let us know if you need this. Class staff can also make phone calls to children if you are present in the room and using speakerphone, so do let them know if that would help your child. At the moment we are not using Zoom following security problems reported both nationally and internationally by schools attempting to use this platform for e learning where children and classes were targeted in 'Zoombombing' and sent pornographic images. We are continuing to monitor this as the Zoom platform puts in place increased security measures and will review the situation in two weeks if there have been no further problems reported. We are aware that at any point we could experience further staff illness and so it is important the children understand it may not always be the same person contacting them. A good way to explain this to them is that the staff miss them so lots of them want to keep in touch. We are happy to send more work if you want it but are mindful of not overloading families and causing more stress, so this system will work better if you are able to give some feedback. Staff can then tailor work to your family circumstances.

Finally, please tell the children that everyone here misses them very much and we hope to see them again very soon. Most importantly, stay safe!

With thanks – Jane Hughes



INVESTORS IN PUPILS

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