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Dear parents/carers,

Re: School Closure - Coronavirus

Over the last few weeks teachers and staff have called each family to see how everyone was and check in with your online learning. Thankfully we were able to speak with the majority of you, where we were unable to we left a message. Even though things are very difficult for everyone your feedback confirmed that you are appreciative of everything we are doing to keep you, your children and the staff connected. Now more than ever it is of paramount importance that we maintain our strong sense of community.

Like you, I took great interest in the Prime Minister's announcement Sunday night. Over the last few days have we received more information from the Government about what this means for our school. In the short term, nothing has changed and the school will continue to only be open to provide care for the children of key workers and vulnerable children. However, we are developing our 'reopening' plan and in doing so will be planning very carefully to make sure this is as safe as possible. I can assure you that our first priority will always be the safety of everyone in our community - our pupils, our staff and our families.



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A survey went out this morning to the parents and carers of our nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils. If you have not already done so can you please complete the survey at your earliest convenience. The Link was sent to your phone. And is also in the school newsletter going out later today. I will provide further information in regard to our opening plan next week.

While the government's overall strategy is for more pupils to return to school they have made it clear this can only be achieved one step at a time. In their guidance they have also confirmed that parents/carers will not face sanctions if they choose to keep their child(ren) at home. Because we are 100% committed to working with all families we will continue to produce learning packs for all year groups for the remainder of this academic year. We have new learning packs ready to go out over the next few working days for all year groups and our children's centre. These will be used by pupils who choose to return to school (within the guidelines) and pupils who continue to work from home.

We understand that home learning has many challenges and I would like to reiterate my message that all households will face different challenges and obstacles. If you are struggling to get your child engaged with all the activities set, please prioritise the English (reading especially) and mathematics activities. Whatever your child gets done will be valuable in terms of keeping your children mentally active and recalling what they have previously learned but needs to be balanced against creating unnecessary pressure and stress at home. Please be assured that no child will be in trouble on their return to school if they have not completed every task set. It is worth remembering at this time that learning is a life-long activity for each individual - it is not a race.

We are very aware that our children are missing out on very important milestones and events in their education and life.

Our Year 6 pupils were also supposed to be sitting their SATs this week and, although they have been cancelled this year, please be safe in the knowledge that these tests exist to create a national benchmark of a child's attainment at a certain point of their education; they are not a qualification and the children will not be held back by not having completed them. The teachers have a very secure handle on the children's attainment and progress and will be able to provide an accurate

picture of this for your child's secondary school. This information will be shared with you in their end of year school report later this term.

For now please keep up the fantastic work you are doing with your children at home. We know and appreciate it is challenging. Remember to do the best you can and please continue to send in examples of your children's work – they are proving to be very inspiring in these challenging times.

Please remember to contact the school if you are experiencing any difficulties, at least one member of the school's Leadership Team is at school each day and we are here to help.

Our thoughts remain with all those families who have been affected by Coronavirus. Our gratitude and thanks continue to go to all those who continue to work tirelessly in our continued fight against this terrible disease.

I will write to you again next week with a further update including more information on our 'reopening' plan. Meanwhile please do everything you can to keep well and stay safe

Best Wishes



Michelle Bahn  
Headteacher