



11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## The day after the night before – and other updates!

Before I share my thoughts on yesterday's update by the Prime Minister, which I have no doubt many of you saw, it is worth reflecting on life in lockdown to date and in particular the home learning opportunities being set for the different classes.

Thank you for the emails and messages you have been sending, thanking the teachers for their efforts. I have passed them all on to the team and it is clear the positive impact they have whilst we navigate these uncharted waters.

As I know you understand, setting work for a whole class, remotely, is not the easiest of tasks. Finding appropriate levels of challenge to consolidate learning and reinforce work covered prior to lockdown for all is not easy. Couple that with adapting to technology (which was in its early stages of rollout when we were forced to close), and I can whole-heartedly say I am impressed with my team's response.

As I mention in all my updates, education (in the sense of acquiring new knowledge and skills) has paused at the moment and well-being has to be the priority. If it is not possible to engage in the work being set on the google classroom for any reason, do feel free to step away and look at other resources. We have posted several links on the school website to sites such as BBC Bitesize and Oak National Academy; all of which will have work related to the core units being suggested by the class teachers. The teachers will not mind, I promise.

In relation to the Prime Minister's update last night regarding the conditional plans to ease lockdown and the phased return of some pupils in June, I know as much as you do at the time of writing. I am waiting for the additional guidance to be sent through from the government and in particular the Department for Education. There were many questions left unanswered last night and it will be wrong to speculate about the detail.

Although specific year groups were mentioned as returning first (no sooner than 1<sup>st</sup> June), there may be some staggering of how this is done. The year group named last night that is relevant for us, as a junior school, is year six. Please do not presume all children in year 6 will back every day. Further guidance will hopefully provide some clarity of how this is to be managed. Clearly the priority must be to return in such a way as to ensure that social distancing is implemented.



I would like to clarify that in the short term **nothing has changed**. Our school remains closed to all pupils other than those children whose parents are keyworkers, who have previously booked childcare provision.

We appreciate that the uncertainty surrounding future planning remains difficult for us all. We know that like us, you will want to ensure that every step is taken so that school is as safe as possible for all members of our school community, as we take these tentative steps towards re-opening.

There are bound to be more frequent updates over the next three weeks. I will send them out via School Comms as well as posting a link on the school website.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,



Steve Mills  
Headteacher

