

Dear Parents,

Covid 19 (Coronavirus) Update March 25th

I hope you have had a good start to the week and have not found the sudden change in circumstances too difficult. Most importantly, I hope you and all of your family stays healthy.

Thank you very much for your understanding and support over the last two weeks. It has been difficult but the 10-15 generous emails I have received from you have really helped me to stay positive. Thank you. I would also like to thank Pippa who has worked extremely hard over the last two days to deep clean the school. She has done an excellent job.

I planned to send weekly updates to you but I understand there has been some concern about email-responses so I have decided to contact you now.

The Immediate

As I said in my previous email, school was closed for the INSET days which were set in September 2019. I also said that Mrs Horobin and I would be working a split between school and work. Vanessa worked in school yesterday and I am in school today. Because of this, if you are in need of an immediate response to a question, please ring the school office. Mrs Horobin informs me that nobody telephoned school yesterday.

Thank you to the parents who met the key worker criteria I set out in my previous email and confirmed they do not require school to help with their child care. If parents are struggling to arrange childcare, please read the official guidance (link 1) in my previous email again. The penultimate paragraph explains what to do if your school is closed to you.

Since the weekend, I am sure you are aware that government guidance has tightened further. The key message, that social distancing is key to fighting Covid successfully, has been emphasised further. It is my belief that schools should be closed to achieve this. I understand the inconvenience of closing schools (trust me, I have two ahem 'spirited' children myself!) but I am certain it is the right thing to do. A perverse example of why this is the case comes from another small school in Derbyshire. Their HT decided to open and insisted all staff be present. Yesterday they had five children in school. One key worker's child and four of the teachers' children! As I said in my last email, this is about as far from social distancing as one can get!

The Easter Holidays

I expect us to remain closed during the two week Easter break from Saturday 4th April. I hope we will have a clearer understanding of how long we will be closed by this point. If, as I fear will be the case, we are unable to open for the beginning of the Summer Term (Monday 20th April), the Easter Break will be used by staff to think about the best way to support your child's learning for the half-term. I am not a fan of sending out enormous quantities of worksheets and do not think this is at all helpful. However, online activities such as TT Rockstars and the First News Ihub can be useful although I continue to believe strongly that reading is the most important thing to do with your child.

The Great Beyond

After Easter, well, who knows?! I think the earliest we could be back in school is the beginning of June although I think even this unlikely. It is a horrid situation.

If this proves to be accurate, we will explore using digital classroom resources such as Zoom and Google Classroom. I have concerns about the stability of everybody's Internet though and I hope we can prepare a better solution, perhaps setting up an email for each child and using this as a means to encourage literacy, maths and wider curriculum learning. I will keep you updated as the situation develops.

I am sorry I have no further updates to offer other than that I have just set the budget for the new financial year which feels very strange.

It goes without saying that we really really miss working with our children and our families.

Thank you for your understanding

Mr Green