Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

First, thank you so much for your support and understanding in these challenging circumstances. Thanks also to those who have donated today for the foodbank, we will ensure that they receive this as soon as possible. I apologise for the length of this letter but there is a lot of information to share with you. Please take time to read it.

After today school is closed until further notice but will remain open for identified vulnerable children and children of key workers. If you feel that this applies to you then this will be confirmed by the office. **Please note that children must not attend school unless this has been agreed with us today. Any children arriving on Monday will be sent home if this has not been agreed.**

The remainder of this letter is split into two sections: those that are not attending and those that will be:

**Pupils who are not attending school:**

There is an expectation that a level of education will continue. Teachers have prepared work and have also developed the class websites in order to provide work. There are many things on line that you can use to support your children, such as storytelling videos (try youtube), exercise activities and various others. We did say that teachers will be available to contact throughout the school day but please remember that many of them will still be teaching so if you need to contact them use the direct teacher email but please be patient for a response.

We are still exploring other ways in which teachers can interact and we ask you to keep checking the website and emails for further updates on this.

For pupils that are eligible for Free School Meals and will **not be attending school** we will be posting out to you a voucher to help with food costs. These will be posted out early next week. Depending how long the situation goes on for this could be repeated in future weeks.

*On a personal note as the headteacher and as a parent: I know that sometimes homework can cause stresses at home. Please bear in mind that your children will not have experienced anything like this before. Everybody is feeling a level of stress and anxiety at the moment and this will be your children too. No matter what age they are they will be picking up on this. They will be worried about some things and you may see some changes in behaviour. Please do not worry about your child regressing academically, when they return we can sort this. Do what you can but bear in mind that the most important thing is mental well-being (yours and theirs). We encourage you to continue educating your child but they will not get into trouble if certain pieces of work are not complete. Don’t forget that other things such as watching a film together, playing a board game, reading a book or walking the dog are just as important. Please do what you can but don’t let the thought of home education raise stress levels to unmanageable levels. Look after yourself as well as them.*

**Pupils who are attending school:**

Note, that this has to be with prior agreement.

Children are only to attend school when there is no alternative so even if you are a key worker this does only apply to times when you need to work. We are managing this through the office. We need to know the days and times that you will need your children to be in. The wraparound facility is available to all at no cost but these sessions need to be booked through the office, breakfast and snacks will be available.

Please give as much notice as possible if your shifts change.

Once we have final numbers we will be in a better position to let you know what the school day will look like.

On Monday all pupils to enter the school via the main office with the exception of those coming in before 8.55am. In that case please use the Kidspace door (on the KS2 yard)

Please make sure your child has their PE kit available every day.

At the moment arrangements for lunchtimes are as normal, ie pupils who are entitled to free school meals will continue to get these. For other pupils they can pay for a lunch in the usual way or bring a packed lunch.

Please remember that the rules on pupils showing symptoms or living with people who show symptoms still apply (14 days).

**To all parents:**

Please make sure that you continue to check regularly for emails and updates. These will continue next week.

Take care everyone, look after yourselves and your families.



Simon Dyson

Principal