

16th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Further to my email on Friday, I am writing with some further updates for you about how school is responding to the Coronavirus situation. I want to start by saying we want to keep everything in school as normal as it can be (for as long as we can) – carrying on with school life which is the current advice from the Government.

We have looked at advice from the DfE and Public Health England and I met with the local Sale Head teachers on Friday and we all agreed that we are all taking the stance that whilst we are open and whilst children are in school, we are keeping them as safe and as healthy as we can do. Whilst we can control the staff we have at school, in terms of them keeping us informed about their health etc, we can't do the same with parents. We have all decided therefore to restrict the amount of large gatherings of adults (ie parents) in school for the time being.

- 1) I have been speaking to the FOPR about the disco on Friday and whether or not we should cancel it. It would be such a shame if the children couldn't enjoy this activity and so we have taken the decision to still hold the school disco but with no parents present, apart from the authorised FOPR helpers. Parents can come to the entrance, drop their children off and go and have a peaceful hour and a half before coming to pick them back up again. We have plenty of staff members in school to ensure supervision – it's just like being in school normally – just with a bit of dancing, lots of sweets and it being a couple of hours later!
- 2) We have taken the decision to postpone the Year 4 Tudor exhibition as this would be a time when parents & grandparents would be mingling with children. Please note – it isn't cancelled – the year 4 children still have work to do on the Tudors for some weeks yet, so it is just going to be delayed.
- 3) We have also taken the decision to not allow parents to attend the Spring Assembly as it would be yet another mingling point with children (you all know how crowded the hall gets which isn't ideal at all, in these circumstances). However, the children have been working hard on the assembly and it's an important part of our school year, so we are still going to do it – just without you as an audience. Miss Fernley and I will be getting out our filming equipment again and creating a fabulous video that we will post to Its learning so that you can still all watch it at home.
- 4) All other school 'extra events' that are happening this week (football matches for example) will go ahead as planned unless we are told otherwise, and in which case, we will notify parents as necessary.

I know the above isn't ideal but I hope you will be supportive of the fact that I am trying to carry on as normal for the children whilst trying to take precautions to keep them as healthy as I can.

In terms of school closures; whilst there are lots of rumours, schools have not had any direct information from the DfE about anything to do with closing schools. However, I do think it is likely at some point (possibly sooner rather than later) that we may have to close – either due to staff self- isolating themselves or an enforced closure by the Government.

We have plans in place for lots of eventualities which I will share with you once the Governing Body have approved them this week but I can already tell you that if/when we do close we WILL be using our online learning platforms to support learning at home. We need to make sure that our communications with you are as strong as they can be so therefore, there are one or two things I need you to do/check to enable us to ensure we can put our plans into action if/when we do close:

- 1) On Tuesday morning (17th March), the office will send out a test email to every year group separately. If you have not received an email from each relevant year group by 12:00, please get in touch with the office to let them know (please remember to check your junk/clutter folders first – it helps if you add our email address to your contacts).
- 2) Please make sure you have our NEW app. Back in December, invites were sent to every contact we have in school to join the new app. If you haven't yet activated the new app or are struggling to get on, please get in touch with the office.
- 3) Attached to the front of this letter are your child's/children's logins and passwords for our online systems (its learning / wonde etc) Please make sure that you login in at home and check that you can get on for each of your children – again let us know if you are having problems.
- 4) Please can you email me (admin email address) and let me know if you do not have a computer / laptop / tablet device at home.
- 5) If you are a key worker - working for the NHS (Doctors, nurses, GPs etc) can you please email me and let me know. There are lots of concerns about closing schools and the impact on NHS workforce and so there are also rumours about how schools will support this issue – I need to know who you are just in case!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of school's decisions at this unprecedented time. I know that you trust me to look after your children by the fact that all of the children are in school as normal, but please be assured that my first priority will always be about what is in the best interests of the children. Please remember to be vigilant about hand washing; watch out for a temperature and dry cough and follow Government advice about self-isolation for 7 days if you see these symptoms.

I will continue to keep you updated as necessary.

Stay healthy!

Mrs Walmsley