

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you for being patient with me today. As it is currently, I am still waiting for more detailed information from the Government about Key Workers and other closure details. As soon as I have it, I will be in touch.

In the meantime I want to share some information with you about today and tomorrow.

I have been round to every single class today and spent a lot of time talking with the children about what is happening and that school will look/feel very different from Monday. I have made it clear to the children that they are not on holiday and that school has not finished. So that you can 'keep to the script' (which I hope will help you in your tasks of home learning) the phrase we have used over and over again is that children will "Be doing school...at home". I have told them about the tasks they will do every day and that we will be monitoring them.

I spoke to them about being independent learners and having to work around what is going on at home – we talked about mums and dads now working from home so they need to be flexible when they use the computer. We talked about not having tantrums about work – they have no choice; their tasks need to be done every day. I also said that if they don't do their tasks they'd get a visit from yours truly! Please feel free to use me in your arsenal of strategies...if all else fails 'I'll call Mrs Walmsley' might work wonders for you.

I have told the children that every week their teachers will get in touch with them. At the moment this might be via the messages on Its Learning but we are trying to quickly set up some software that will allow the children a class video conference call with their teacher. We might even pick up the phone and call them!

I talked to the children about how some of them would be coming to school still because parents are key workers and we need to look after them whilst mum and dad are at work. I told children that they would not need to come in uniform, if they didn't want to (that cheered them up!) because everyone at home wouldn't be in uniform. But we did talk about wearing a school jumper at home when you are doing work, might help get you into the right routines for school learning!

For vulnerable children and children of key workers who will come to school, school will look/feel very different. Children will be grouped all together and do their home learning at school using school laptops. After that learning activities will be run by school staff but will be creative, expressive, physical and fun! For example, Mr Ford will take them all to do sport, Miss Fernley might do robotics with them, our music teacher is still coming into do music, Mrs Adams will do art with them (she has an art degree) and Mrs Evans Murrie will do outdoor learning. The list of what we will do is endless! I still don't know what will happen at lunchtimes for these children in terms of who will provide lunch. Trafford catering are expected to be in touch with me tomorrow so we may be able to provide a school meal or children may need to bring a packed lunch – I'll advise when I know. I also have lots of questions about this myself (do children have to attend every day for example?) and I'll try to get answers to everything for you tomorrow.

I spoke to the children about their worries. And I told them that I knew they would be a bit worried or anxious about everything that is happening but that they are not to worry – we are going to treat all of this like an exciting adventure – how exciting is learning from home?! I asked them to use the school values in all that they do: caring for each other, their family and looking out for neighbours; passion for their learning to keep learning new things;

excellence as we all want to be the best we can be – to always try their best in the work/learning they do at home; and working together – being a big team and Park Road family we will get through these next weeks. I hope that your children have come home tonight positive about what is going to happen. If your child has any worries or is struggling, please let me know and we can support them in school tomorrow and going forward with extra calls at home.

Tonight, the children will have come home with their belongings and a home learning pack. It contains a variety of paper and a pencil to get everyone started. They have also brought reading books home. If anyone needs any supplies, please let us know I'm sure we will be able to get things to you! Door step drops for children self-isolating will be tomorrow.

Tomorrow, we are going to have a non-uniform day and a day to celebrate all that is Park Road (Reception children are still doing Super-Hero day). We will be doing lots of fun activities. I think every other Sale primary school is doing this – and collectively we are calling it "Sale Schools Smile Friday!" It's a little way of us keeping everything as positive as it can be.

We are still going ahead with our school disco tomorrow night (normal time). I know that some of you won't like this decision. However, we are all aware that we don't know how long this situation will go on for and I truly believe that this is a really good way to end the spring term. I know that some of you won't want to bring your children and I have asked the children to respect your decisions but I do hope to see as many children there as possible. Please remember that we won't let parents stay, you can only drop them off.

I have also made the very hard decision to cancel the Easter holiday club. My aim is to open at Easter for our Key Worker children as the government have requested and once I have more information I will confirm this.

I know you will have questions about refunds for Kidsclub, trips and for school meals. I've got my office team working on how we do this for you – again for meals, I'm waiting on Trafford to get back to me. As soon as we have a plan about this I'll let you know.

When the information comes from the Government I'll send out a questionnaire to get information from you all.

In the meantime – thanks again for all your support.

Kindest regards,



Mrs C Walmsley  
Headteacher