

Message to Parents from Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

We know that Mrs Wicks has been writing to you regularly, but as Governors we also wanted to contact you with a short message.

Firstly, we hope you and your families are managing to stay safe and well during these unprecedented times. Life has changed for all of us and we are facing different, and sometimes difficult, challenges.

As you probably know, schools were given fewer than 48 hours' notice of the emergency closures on 20th March. What you may not know is that schools were in no way consulted on the decision and were informed just as you all heard the news. The Department for Education has given schools very little guidance as to the level of education they should be providing to children. Without knowing the duration of the closures, we have tried to plan strategically as best we can. During the last two weeks of term, school sent home learning packs to cover a great deal of the usual curriculum. Now it's clear that schools will be closed for an extended period of time, the staff team have worked really hard to produce the new online Seesaw learning platform, which we hope you are finding constructive.

We know that helping children with their school work and activities while juggling working from home yourselves and taking care of your family, loved ones, friends and neighbours, is challenging and tiring. During this time we certainly don't want to contribute to anyone feeling overwhelmed so please just encourage your children to do the best they - and you - can.

Throughout this period of lock down, we have kept our doors open every day for our most vulnerable children and those of Key workers and we are, of course, really proud to support our children, the NHS and other vital industries, particularly at the moment.

During this difficult time, many of us are thinking about our relationships and we are reminded that our staff also have family and loved ones to think about. Small schools such as ours thrive on our close community feel – as Governors we definitely miss being in school and seeing the children, staff, our colleagues and the rest of our school community. Many of our team members are self-isolating, have family members who are unwell or they are ill themselves. We are really grateful to our wonderful staff for their hard work in such tricky circumstances and we're sure you will join us in thanking them for their efforts as Key workers themselves.

Unfortunately, we don't have any inside track on when schools will re-open. We will, of course, be in touch again once we know more. In the meantime, please keep yourselves and your loved ones safe. We look forward to seeing you all again as soon as we can.