

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope that after a week of learning at home you and your families are all doing well. It has been lovely hearing from so many of you either directly to me or to the other teachers.

#### Home Learning

Later today, I will be sending out to you work which the teachers have set for Monday. We have decided to send out daily tasks to help with some kind of routine which is crucial in trying to keep some normality for our children during these uncertain and extraordinary times. Therefore, you will receive a daily set of tasks each day Monday to Friday in term time from now until we return to school. Where possible, the teachers have avoided the need for anything to be printed out. Where there are attachments, you should be able to read them from the screen and record anything on paper or in the books which we sent home with each pupil.

Some families have been asking me whether you need to send us images of what you have been doing on a daily basis. The answer to this is no, but if you want to you can. However, if we don't hear from you at all over the week, we will check in with you to make sure you are ok. The teachers are all available on the days they are usually in school to respond to anything which you send them. Do ask if you are unsure of anything.

#### Dealing with change and anxiety

I am also sending today a very useful electronic booklet which explains the virus to children well. It enables conversations to begin if they haven't already about how you are all feeling about it. General advice from all of the child support charities and mental health groups is to talk about it. I hope that it is of some use.

#### Following Government advice

When I have been in Reed, I have often thought how it is easy to forget about the situation we are in. The sun has been shining, the sky is blue, the news is switched off and the village is never that busy! This will make it even harder for families in rural areas to stick to the two metre rule and not to mix with other families. Please do remind each other and your children if they slip up about social distancing. Playdates can only happen remotely at the moment even on a sunny day!

Please remember:

**You should only leave the house for very limited purposes:**

- shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, **which must be as infrequent as possible**. This includes collecting free school meals (see next section).
- one form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle - **alone or with members of your household**.
- any medical need, including to donate blood, avoid or escape risk of injury or harm, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
- travelling for work purposes, **but only where you cannot work from home**.

Support during uncertain times

As the weeks go on for some of you, you may start making use of the financial support being made available by government. If you do find yourselves struggling financially, free school meals are available for pupils of parents/carers that receive certain benefits. You should use this link to see if you are eligible: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Our kitchen is open at school for meals for children attending school for child care, and for packed lunches for free school meals which are either being collected at the door or being delivered to your doorstep. Do get in touch if you think that you are now or likely to be eligible.

Please remember that I am always on the end of the phone or email.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs V Wittich