



24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## **Coronavirus Update 8**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am sure that like me, you and your family are coming to terms with the latest news from the government. It is clear that we all need to urgently do our part to try and stop the spread of this virus. I am very grateful for all the support that you have shown in making plans with your children to keep them at home.

Thank you to those who also came in to school to collect belongings etc. With this latest news I'm afraid that I cannot allow any more visitors to the school site as to do so would require unnecessary journeys and we must follow the guidance we have been given. This morning, we are checking through items still on site to see if there are any critical books etc. and if there are, we will make arrangements for these to be sent home to you. Otherwise we will keep hold of the items we have safely until we can all come back to the school site.

I also wanted to pay tribute to the staff who have done such a great job of preparing for remote teaching. It has not been without a challenge or two along the way and many of these have been due to technical issues with the networks nationally which are beyond our control. I am sure that as matters progress this situation will improve and I'd just like to thank you for your patience and understanding. Please do encourage your son / daughter to keep to a regular routine this week and to engage with their work.

Whilst we will do everything possible to continue to monitor the Teams that your child has a lesson in, there may be times where my colleagues are unable to be present due to illness or domestic arrangements e.g. colleagues with young children who can no longer be sent to nurseries etc. In such circumstances, please be aware that we will endeavour to keep work set for your son / daughter and other members of the department will be helping out where possible. Please also bear in mind that staff are now receiving an enormous number of emails from parents and students and these will take time to respond to.

I am conscious that it may take us all as a whole community, a little time to fully adjust to the new routine of home learning and self-isolating, but please be assured that we will do everything we can to make this experience as positive as we possibly can for your sons and daughters.

We will be asking for feedback towards the end of the week to see how you and your child are finding remote teaching and to see if there is anything we can do to improve or enhance the experience going forward. In the meantime, if you have any questions at all please do let me know.

Please take care and look after one another and I would like to send you and your families my very best wishes at this time.