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Headteacher: Mrs J Exton

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an extremely unusual week at school where the situation has changed on a daily basis. We have worked hard to respond to these changes and keep you updated and this is the final update I will send via letter. All other communications will be via Class Dojo. If you have still not got your log in for Class Dojo then please email the school office and we will set you up as soon as possible. It is vital that you do this as all home learning and communication from myself and class teachers will be via Class Dojo for the foreseeable future.

### **Home Learning Packs**

The idea of being off school for a few weeks sounds great. Some children are probably thinking that it's going to be like the summer holiday, however the reality is quite different. This is something that we have not experienced before and everyone reacts in different ways.

We are sending work home for the children to complete but we recognise that home is not the same as school so we have put together a few hints and tips for you to think about.

- Children respond really well to structure and routine. Talk to your child about what will be happening when, so they know what to expect.
- Children are generally fresher in the morning after a good nights sleep so set aside a time in the morning for learning.
- Fresh air and exercise is important to everyone's well being. Go for a walk, bike ride or scooter session, climb trees and jump in puddles!
- Family time is very important, even more so at a time like this. Have cuddles, talk about your feelings, reassure your children. Bake together, do the gardening, play a board game.

### **What are we sending home?**

All children will have a paper pack sent home with them. If you child is not in school on Friday then we will send a Dojo next week of how you can pick it up. There will be a selection of activities: English, maths and topic. Some will be quick short focused activities e.g. practising tables or spellings, some will be more in depth and require more time.

Children in Squirrels, Hedgehogs and Badgers will be sent with three reading books, this is the maximum that we can send home in one go! Please look after them and ensure that they are kept safe. We will explore how we can keep reading books going and Dojo you an update next week.

Looking forward, the plan is that teachers will upload work to Class Dojo by 9am each Monday morning for the following week.

We have done our very best to plan for the weeks and months ahead but none of us have done this before, so please bear with us as we adjust to this new way of working!

### **Contacting School**

- If you need to contact a teacher regarding work then please do so using Class Dojo. Teachers will respond within 48 hours, however please be mindful that some of our teachers work part time on specific days.
- The office email will be monitored regularly and can be used as a method of communication.
- If there is a school related emergency or a safeguarding concern then please phone the school in the first instance and if no reply then the school emergency number: 07849 135740 This number is not to be used for general communication.

### **Child Care Provision**

School will be open on Monday 9.00 am – 3.30pm as a childcare provision. I have spoken to the parents today of children who have places on Monday. If you have not heard from me then unfortunately you do not have a place. Please see the attached letter from Mr Gooding, the CEO of our Academy Trust, for a full explanation of this.

Whilst school is open, it will be run in a very different way for children. Children will not be expected to wear school uniform and we ask that they wear trainers or shoes suitable for being outside and running around! Staff will be working on a rota basis including our teachers, support staff and staff from Stepping Stones.

Children will need to bring their home learning packs and we will support children in completing activities during the morning sessions. There will also be a variety of different activities planned for the children including crafts and sports throughout the day. We will be very mindful of the activities we are providing so that equipment can be regularly washed.

Children can bring their own packed lunch or they can book on via Parent Pay in the usual way. This may take a few days to set up so please bear with us.

I am so proud of everyone in our school this week. The children have been amazing, enjoying their time together. The staff have been so positive supporting the children and there has been a real team effort allowing us to focus on the ever-changing information that we have received to ensure the best for our school community. Some very hard decisions have had to be made, especially today and I am sure that you understand the need to look at the big picture of our whole community and work together to minimise the spread of this virus and protect those that we care about. The next few weeks will be a challenging time with the social distancing guidance in place, but we must all do what we can to support our community.

Best wishes to each and every one of you!

Mrs Exton

Headteacher

