

5th January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

You will now be aware of the government announcement on the latest closure of schools and will be letting the ramifications of that decision sink in. Although we do try to plan for all eventualities and to try and guess what the government might be planning, we only know what the actual plan will be at the same time as you do and get no advance notice. I believe it is the right decision given the high transmission rate, but the move to online learning is never going to be as good as having your child in the same room as a teacher.

The staff at this school, like staff at schools across the country, learned a lot through the March lockdown, about what worked well and not so well in providing student learning and many are now proficient in creating high quality lessons. We also have access to many more learning resources that were not available to us previously.

Throughout the closure, teachers will provide lessons for the normal timetable that your child would access in school. The majority of these will be recorded lessons, but a growing number of these will be live lessons, where your child can interact with their teacher and ask suitable questions. Your child will be set at least 4 hours of lessons for each school day. Your child will also be able to talk to their teacher through Google Classroom. Examples of high quality work will be added to the 'Homeworking Showcase' on the school's website.

All staff will be working during this period, so questions that you have should be answered in the normal way. I will write to you regularly during this period to keep you updated about any planned changes or to give you notice of any new initiatives that are planned.

Before the closure, the school had planned to provide virtual parents evenings, where you could discuss your child's progress with their teacher. These will still go ahead and it may be that they are now of even greater importance than was previously the case. News of the timings for these will follow in due course.

We do understand that some households are having to share devices and are struggling with internet connectivity. We are working with the DFE and will hopefully be in possession of additional devices over the coming days, these will be allocated on a priority basis as soon as we are able to.

The school's safeguarding, pastoral and counselling staff will also be available and able support you throughout the lockdown.

Thank you as ever for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Steven Fisher
Executive Headteacher