

Thursday 21st May 2020

School Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are all well and continuing to manage during lockdown. It is important that you are all staying safe during these unique circumstances and continuing to adhere to the social distancing Government guidelines.

School life is far from normal, but staff are still working hard to ensure that the remote virtual lessons for children are of a high quality, easily accessible and enjoyable for the pupils during these challenging times. Zoom lessons are going well, we have had good feedback from parents, we feel that they are keeping pupils motivated and helping them to keep to a structured routine. Reward vouchers have been emailed to pupils who have been engaging well, ready to learn and have had outstanding lessons. FreshSteps has purchased 10 new laptops, and these have been distributed to our families to help support with home school learning. We have also continued delivering food packages to our most needed pupils. One strength of our school is that we have a close community and as the lockdown has developed, so has the need for us all to reach out and touch the lives of each other, even if only remotely.

Sticking to a routine and making sure we take care of ourselves suggests we can ease the psychological toll that staying inside is having on all of us. Try and stay in touch with other people regularly by phone, Zoom or WhatsApp, this is still a good way of feeling close to the people who matter to you. Having an exercise routine and just getting outside for a daily walk can have huge benefits to your mental wellbeing. Try and discover a new hobby with all the family being involved like gardening or planting vegetables. We can supply some seeds if you would be interested or you can look on YouTube for some tips on how to replant vegetable scraps that you have brought in the supermarket. These can easily be regrown into healthy vegetables for the whole family to enjoy with no cost involved. Try the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJuXpiEjdcc>.

Please can we remind you that school is closed next week so there will be no online lessons as this would normally be half term. Zoom lessons will resume on Weds 3rd June and pupils will continue to follow their normal timetable.

The Government have announced some details about the next stage of the COVID-19 response plan and will make the final decision on whether to press ahead with the phased reopening of Year 1 and Year 6 within schools on the 1st June when it reviews the latest science on the 28th May. If the evidence does not support this decision at that time, it will be delayed. We will prepare for several scenarios and share this with parents as soon as we have more information.

Please get in touch if you need any additional help and support and we will try and help you if we can. If you are struggling with your wellbeing, financial hardship, or a lack of food, please remember we are still here to help. Please also check our website for any updates and ideas.

You will be hearing from me in due course regarding the safe return of pupils. Meanwhile, I wish you and your families all good health, please keep yourselves safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Anderson
Headteacher