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## Headteacher

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Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## Weekly Update #7

Half term is nearly here! Although we may not be able to do what we had planned for the May half term, I am sure many of the children (and their parents!) will appreciate the break from home schooling and an opportunity to perhaps venture out a little more often into the countryside around our homes. We will all be keeping our fingers crossed that the sun continues to shine and remain ever hopeful that a return to more 'normal' times lies just around the corner.

## Returning to school

As you will have seen in the media, the Government has asked schools to continue to provide school places for children of key workers and, from Monday 1st June, to have plans in place to enable Year 6 pupils to return to school.

The Department for Education has published guidance for parents and carers around the phased reopening of schools. If you have any questions, then please do have a read of the document via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

In order for a phased return to be possible, schools have also been sent guidance around the measures that they will need to have in place in order to keep children and staff safe. We are very much in the planning stage at the moment. As soon as we are able to, we will share more information about what our offer will look like, for those returning to school and for those who continue to access home learning. Ahead of our return, we need to anticipate the numbers of children that we will have in school. Please may I ask that you read the following information carefully and respond to the relevant survey at your earliest convenience.

## Year 3, 4, 5 children - Key Workers

If one parent is a key worker then you are entitled to send your child to school. That said, if there is a possibility that they can remain safely at home then they should do so. For current DfE guidance around who qualifies as a key worker, please read the Government criteria via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>.

**Key Worker Survey** - please only complete this survey if your child is in Years 3, 4, or 5:

If you wish your child to attend school after Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June under the 'key worker' category, please complete the survey via this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WNNY9X9>

If your child has already been attending school during the closure, please also complete this survey so that all responses are up to date.

## Year 6 children

The Government has asked schools to plan to have Year 6 children back in school from Monday 1st June. There are a number of considerations that we need to take into account when planning for this. We realise that you will want to



know more details around what this provision will be like for your child but it would help our planning if you could answer a short survey regarding your intentions. Once we have this information, we will finalise our plans and share them with you. We recognise that your thinking around whether to send your child back may change once you know our plans, and that is fine, but an indication of your intentions would be helpful at this stage.

### **Year 6 Parent Survey**

Please can I ask that all year 6 parents answer the questions on the following survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WF96S5F>

Please may I ask that both the **Key Worker and Year 6 surveys are completed by Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020** in order to provide vital information for our planning,

### **ELSA Resources**

As the amount of time away from school increases, we are aware that some children have been struggling with their feelings around the virus and its impact on their lives. The Surrey Educational Psychology Service have recommended a book, Coronavirus by Axel Scheffler, which can be accessed by the following web link. <https://axelscheffler.com/books-for-older-children/coronavirus>. This might be a helpful way for you as parents to talk to children and allow them to ask questions. Mrs Brockman, our school ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) has also prepared a document, attached to this e mail, with some links which you may find useful.

### **Home Learning**

Over half a term of home learning is a long time. In school we vary the learning and give a 'break' or change of focus at varying points in the day or week - please do this at home too if it helps. If you and/or your child are struggling then take a breather, have some fun, do something different. We are aware that there are many pressures on your time just now so please do what you can but look after yourselves too.

### **Monitoring Your Child's Learning**

As you are aware we already ask your child to upload a piece of written work a week. This enables the teachers to provide feedback and gauge how their learning in English is progressing.

Answers for maths activities are posted on the VLE for children and/or parents to use to mark the maths work completed. We will now be posting maths answers with the work. This enables instant feedback to be given to the child which, from a learning point of view, is preferential to waiting a day or two for marking feedback. The teachers have plans to, or may have already, set a maths assessment task for the children to complete at the end of each maths unit. The activity will compose of about 10 questions of varying difficulty. We are asking for this task to be uploaded so that the teachers can mark it and review your child's progress in maths in readiness for returning to school. We ask that no parental help is given to the child when completing the end of unit assessment so that an accurate picture of understanding can be gathered.

### **New exercise books needed?**

Please remember that if you need one, we have a plastic box left by the school gates daily for you to collect a new exercise book within school hours. There are a selection of lined, squared and plain books available.

### **Head / Deputy VLE Page**

We continue to post a video on this page each week so do encourage your child to take a look. This week there is a creative challenge for your children to enjoy. This particular challenge was inspired by a photograph that the Thomas family (Murphy and Fraser) sent in to the projects page on the VLE. Thanks for the inspiration!

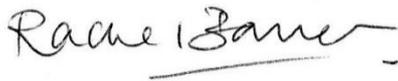


## Hardship

We are very aware of the negative impact this shut down will be having on families in many ways, especially financially. Those families who meet the threshold to receive 'free school meals' due to their income, benefits etc are receiving some extra support. If you are experiencing hardship but don't previously qualify as 'free school meals' do get in touch as we may be able to arrange some support for you, or you may now qualify for entitlement to 'free school meals' support.

Please remember that If you have a Safeguarding concern around any child please contact us or Surrey Children's Services: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/childrens-social-care/contact-childrens-services> or phone 0300 470 9100.

With best wishes,



Rachel Barker (Deputy Headteacher)

