



10th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are all well and you have had a great weekend celebrating VE day.

As you aware there is a lot of speculation around when schools are returning, we do not know any more than you do at this present time. We hope the announcement tonight will give us some clarity. We will all be listening very carefully! However, it might then take a few days for us to know what this looks like in reality and practical terms. We will then hopefully be guided more by the DFE and Local Authorities and then be able to pass this information on to you. We are as baffled as you are at the moment, but we hope whatever the decisions are around schools returning, it will be the right one for the children, their families, staff and the local community.

We do know that for now, home learning will continue for a while longer. I understand the challenges this brings to everyone and please do what works best for your child. There is no expectation to recreate a school day, the children's learning needs to fit around your needs as a family and needs to be adapted to how your children are responding each day. Ideally completing some Maths, Writing and Reading each day will help to keep some form of routine, which will help the children when they do return to school. Equally, all of the other opportunities and skills the children are receiving at home will really help them too and they will benefit greatly from what they are learning and experiencing.

We recognise the challenges of online learning and having to navigate between websites, especially with more than one child and that is why we hope the platform puts all the things you need in one place. We are ahead of other schools in this respect and we value the feedback and interaction from the staff and pupils. If you are having any difficulties with the platform or accessing learning activities, please let your class teacher know by using the class email, emailing admin@ellwood.gloucs.sch.uk or phoning the school.

We all really love seeing what activities the children have been completing and we are amazed at how much learning is taken place, some academic but also creative and physical. It would be appreciated if you could email your child's teacher, at least weekly, either with photos or just a message, so that we know you are all ok and you can tell us how the home learning is going or share any worries that you have. The staff have really enjoyed talking to parents and even some of the children on the phone and we value this time to ensure that everyone is ok. If we do not hear from a parent or can't make contact, we have been a little

persistent, as we really care and we want to know that everyone is well, otherwise we tend to worry.

I hope you enjoy the week ahead and we will wait and see what happens later in the Government announcement.

Thank you for your ongoing support and take care,

D.Milford

Mr Milford