



Friday March 20th 2020

PYTHON 6: My Final Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is it! My last Python Update before we close as a school. It has been probably the strangest week of my entire career (and that is saying something). I have absolutely no idea what will happen to us as a country over the coming weeks or what else may come along from HM Government, so please do keep checking our school website and social media for updates.

Support for Families with Free School Meals

In line with government recommendations we are asking our kitchen to put into place emergency support for children in receipt of Free School Meals. A national voucher scheme is being created and these, we are led to believe, will be sent to you very shortly to enable you to purchase food from supermarkets. In the interim period a packed lunch will be available for you to pick up from the school office, should you require it on a daily basis. I am very well aware that this is not at all ideal but is a temporary emergency solution until the national voucher system kicks in.

Key Worker Registration

In accordance with my earlier Python 5 newsletter here is the link to the updated and amended Application for Emergency Child Care.

<https://forms.gle/X5C4L4stzDgdXyph7>

I shall repeat again that **for any child accessing this provision, it must be a last resort for Key Workers where no other child care can be accessed and there is therefore a clear detriment to front line service and those in desperate need.**

If we abuse this opportunity, then the school closure will be pointless and so many more lives will be at risk.

“If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.”

Gov.uk

Guidance on key workers is available on the gov.uk website. Provision must be accessed only where absolutely necessary. It is the final last resort option for childcare, not the first.

Due to the late publication of the information from the government we will be working on all

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on-line applications for emergency child care for the remainder of the day and this weekend. We will inform parents directly this afternoon via the given contact email for absolute emergency places for Monday. We will then work through other applications for a start date as soon as possible thereafter when I know available staffing.

From Monday and throughout next week we will be working with the City of Newcastle to co-ordinate our emergency provision and identify capacity across the city. This does refer back to an earlier communication I had with you, re provision in other school buildings across Newcastle for emergency places. The LA will be offering a Key Worker placement support helpline **from Monday** on 0191 277 4500 (it is **not** a complaining about the Head Teacher or school strategy hot line!)

This is certainly not goodbye.

For all those children at home we will be in touch via the website and uploading new work, videos, messages and words of encouragement over the coming weeks. Your class teachers are still there working hard for you – just in a very different way to the normal routines we love at school.

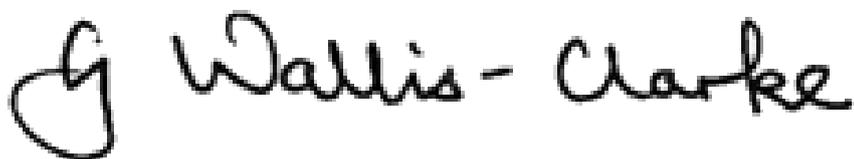
I will miss you all. The sound of you learning, chatting, singing, encouraging, disagreeing, finding things out and being amazed is for me the most wonderful sound in the world. Please keep in touch and let us know what you are doing.

I really hope we can all come back together very soon.

Please can everyone take the government guidance really, really seriously and stay safe, keeping a safe distance from others and avoiding large social groups until this crisis passes. We have some very difficult few weeks immediately ahead of us to try to limit and slow down the spread of this virus and we all need to play our part in this. I know it is hard sometimes to fully grasp the situation when you feel well and the sun is shining on this beautiful early Spring day, but the threat is real.

We go forwards and onwards together, for once not in body together but absolutely in spirit.

With my love to you all.
Take care

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Wallis-Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.