**Update 30 March**

Week two of the school closure and things look to be ramping up. Government advice has never been clearer or simpler ;

**STAY AT HOME !!**

**Essential journeys only.**

**With this in mind, plus the increasing risk of contamination we are now telling parents that the work packs which were sent in should not be returned on Friday 3 April.**

With the Easter holidays upon us soon, no more work will be set for pupils from the 3 April to 20 April so the children have their Easter holidays.

I think that the best way forward after that will be to have remote learning and every 2/3 weeks we can also post possible activities for children to do.

Teachers are preparing work to start on Monday 20 April. Work will broadly be based on the internet programmes- studyladder, mathletics or possibly a new site (See-saw possibly). Details of any new site and new passwords for any new site will be placed on the website for parents to access.

It is very important that *you only access your own child’s log on details*.

I don’t envisage any hard copy work being sent home at the minute because of the risk of contamination – but if they are it will be in the form of non-returnable workbooks for parents to monitor. We have yet to devise a method of distributing these if they are available – but we’ll think of something that won’t pose a risk hopefully.

Hopefully each class will also have ideas for activities or projects that could be done at home with parents – for example;

From social skills (how to tie laces, talking on a topic for 2/3 minutes, how to use a knife and fork….you’d be surprised!..), to counting/ identifying birds, signs of spring, building a den, to finding out what materials are used to build houses, how tadpoles turn into frogs, researching a figure or event in history... etc). These are non-exhaustive – I’m sure parents could think of a lot more themselves!

These too will be on the website between the 17 – 20 April.

We will work to update the remote learning every 2/3 weeks and staff can monitor this from school or home.

**Could Key Workers please let me know via email if possible their weekly need of childcare as soon as they know – so we can plan our rota etc**

As regards Easter holiday opening I’ve yet to have clear direction but I don’t intend, at this moment, to open the school to key workers children on Good Friday or Easter Monday, but it will depend on how serious things are nearer the time. The rota would continue on Easter Tuesday.

You may have heard that the DE and EA are proposing to set up Hub schools in each area - with children all going to one site and staff from their school also attending. Indeed they are proposing that any parent from any school can nominate any school which is open to place their child.

**This concerns me – and my staff - for a number of reasons**

My thinking is this- better to have your own children in your own school with own staff. I don’t think any teacher or classroom assistant wants to go to another school or wants children from another school (and possible problems) in ours to look after. And your kids will be mixing with kids and staff from other schools as well as our own. If ours go to another school one of our teachers and/or C As would have to go also.

It stands to reason that this will increase numbers on site and the chances of infection and cross contamination - bringing children (and staff) from a larger catchment area only increases the risk of the virus being passed on, and lessens the chances of social distancing - We’re relatively low risk as it stands with our low numbers, so I’d like to keep it that way. There are schools in the area who could open but don’t – perhaps they could be utilised.

**I will vigorously contest any attempt to increase the risk to our children or our staff**.

We finally received a small consignment of protective gloves and sanitizers on Friday afternoon ... even toilet rolls!! Again I would ask that if anyone can spare any of these items, or can lay their hands on any (I’ll reimburse you) it would be most appreciated.

Best wishes to Mr Millington as he struggles to recover from the symptoms.

Keep logging on for the latest updates. Stay Safe!