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Thursday 16th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today is ostensibly the first day of Term 5 - I hope that you all managed to spend time together as a family and I thought that we were particularly lucky with the weather as we managed to get out for several walks/bike rides over the past couple of weeks.

COVID-19 Update

I have just been watching the daily update from the Government and, as expected, it was announced that we remain on lockdown for another three weeks. This means that we will continue to apply the stringent criteria based on children's safety as we did last term. I don't doubt that this is a difficult situation for many parents but the health & safety of the children has to be our priority.

I know that I speak for the entire staff when I say that we miss the children and we all look forward to being back at school with them. Over the course of the next week, the staff will be posting video messages for the children onto the school website so look out for these – we'll also put links onto our school Facebook and Twitter feeds.

As important as the lockdown is, how we respond to the lifting of the restrictions will be just as sensitive and we are starting to put together a strategy on how we will lift lockdown and the actions we can take to ensure that the children remain protected. As always, we will continue to follow the advice and guidance of Public Health England.

Parental Consultations

We are very aware that there are many parents who did not get to complete their consultations. Early next week, a ParentMail will be coming home with an invitation to sign up for a telephone consultation for the following week. We will be offering these to Years 1 and 2 in the first instance and then the remainder of the school the week after that.

Free School Meal Vouchers

As you may have read on the news, the governments Free School Meal scheme had (has!) several teething issues and I don't doubt that this would be frustrating for our eligible parents.

I can only ask for your patience at this time as this is something that is out of our control. More information can be found on our [School Closure: Free School Meals](#) page.

Year 5 Residential to Bore Place

As I wrote in my last email to parents, we have had to cancel this trip. As things stand, we are unable to recover the deposits from Bore Place and therefore we are seeking to get this money back through our insurance providers. As soon as we have any further information then we will send this directly to you.



Collective Worship

At this time, it is not possible for us to come together in Collective Worship as we would normally do, however we do have some materials on our [School Closure: Collective Worship](#) page of our website that we would invite parents to use with their children. If we cannot be together physically - perhaps we can through our worship.

Educational Provision

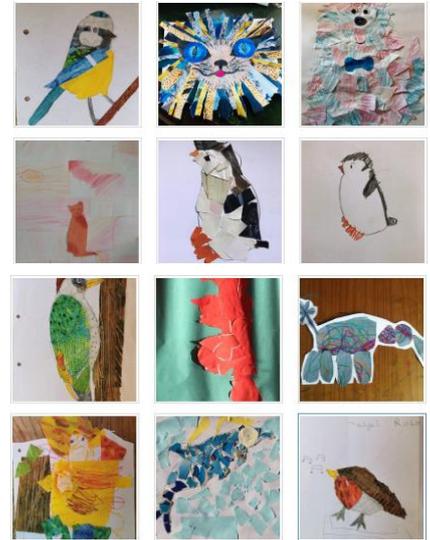
It is probably a good idea to recap what learning activities have already been provided and what you can expect over the next few weeks.

I would encourage all children to continue with Times Table Rock Stars and Spelling Shed although I would certainly advocate a 'little and often' approach, i.e. no more than 15 minutes a day. Daily reading should also continue.

Miss Allison and Mr Taylor have also put together some ideas on Reading which was sent out at the end of the last term – this advice can also be found on our [School Closure: Home Learning](#) page.

Please also keep an eye on our [School Closure: Web Links](#) and [School Closure: Virtual Trips](#) pages on our website for additional activities, which we are continually updating.

A couple of weeks ago, Mrs Smith set an art challenge for the children and you can see the resulting pieces of artwork in the blog post [Animal Collage](#). I have to say that I've been very impressed with all the children's work.



Mrs Smith has now set a second art challenge for children to practise and develop their observational drawing skills. Details can be found on our [School Closure: Home Learning](#) page.

Tomorrow, teachers will be sending out optional English and Maths activities for the week and these will continue to be sent out each Friday. **I would emphasise that these are optional, so please don't feel pressured into completing them.** These activities will be emailed out to parents and information placed on our [School Closure: Home Learning](#) page and well as the [Year Group](#) pages of our website.

For our Maths activities, we will be utilising an online resources called 'White Rose Maths', which we use in school. It may well be that children may struggle initially with a particular concept and I would recommend that, should this be the case, then to dip into the previous year as 'revision' before attempting the task again.

I appreciate that many of you will be working from home and trying to juggle home education as well as your jobs (believe me, I sympathise!) There will be some days that are more successful than others and I would say to encourage children to do as much as they can without it becoming a 'battle'.

We're all in new territory here and we'll all make mistakes. As always, we are here for you so please do contact your child's class teacher if there is anything that needs clarifying.

With best wishes

James Tibbles