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Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Earlier today, I was reading a news article which had the headline: *'Rising sense of panic' in schools over pandemic*. I have to say that this has not been my experience the past few days. Yes, the advice from government has appeared inconsistent and lacking in clarity but I feel very strongly that we, as a community, are taking a measured and reasonable approach to our current situation.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the children's reactions to current events. As well as protecting them physically from infection, by keeping things as 'normal' as possible for our children, we are protecting them mentally and emotionally which is just as – if not more so – important.

What is the Current Situation?

The school remains open.

Pupils should attend unless there are is anyone in your immediate family (i.e. those you live with) who is displaying symptoms, then the whole household should self-isolate for 14 days.

- A new, continuous cough and/or
- A temperature

If your child is unwell, report this normally preferably via ParentMail or by phoning in.

All non-essential events have been cancelled

Further to the events detail in yesterday's update to parents:

- Next weeks' book fair has been cancelled;
- The Year 4 trips to Wildwood have been cancelled;
- The Easter services at St. Peter's Church have been cancelled;
- The Year R trip to East Kent Railway has been postponed;
- The Senior Citizen's Tea Party (St George's Day) has been cancelled.

I am very aware that the Year 5 residential is in 6 weeks' time and the Year 6 residential is in 8 weeks' time. We will be doing all we can to ensure that these go ahead but some things are out of our control.

There will be no after-school clubs next week.

We will be unable to offer a school holiday club over the Easter break.

All other school functions continue as normal including Breakfast & After-School Club.



Support for Children's Education at Home

We fully appreciate that whilst children are at home you would be keen that their education does not suffer. We have a number of ways that learning can continue at home should the school be required to close.

- In lieu of tomorrow's parental consultations, staff will be preparing resource packs that will be sent home either via your child or in the post. These will be activities that the children can complete to reinforce the learning that they have completed in school. **These will come home by the end of the week.**
- Reading remains the best way that you can support your child's education.
- In addition, you can also download home-learning packs which have been provided to us by a website called Classroom Secrets which we use in school. These all include activities which revise what the children have already been taught this year. These can be downloaded and printed from our [school website](#). The level of challenge is indicated by the colour of the star in the corner of the page.
 - Red star – Challenge 1;
 - Blue star – Challenge 2;
 - Yellow star – Challenge 3.
- There are also a number of online learning resources that you can use. These will also be placed on our school website and, if log on details are needed, they will be sent home with the resource packs on Thursday. Links to these websites can be found on our [Supporting Learning at Home](#).

As always, I would seek to minimise the amount of time your children spend in front of a screen completing these tasks. Encourage them to stay as active as possible and take advantage of the practical idea suggestions on our [school website](#) as well.

Yours sincerely,



James Tibbles,
Headteacher