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Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

...and so ends one of the most surreal days of my career!

My plan was to give you more information following the DfE's announcement that schools will close on Friday except for 'vulnerable children and those of key workers' and indeed, the DfE told us that this information would be forthcoming at 9.30am this morning.

We had been told that this information will be coming to us today but frustratingly, at the time of writing this (7pm), we have still not have any information from national government on what constitutes a 'key worker'.

As soon as we know this, I will be writing to all parents via ParentMail asking for an urgent response from those parents who require their children to be in school so that they can continue to work and have no child-care alternative. This is with the aim of keeping the number of children in school as low as possible to lessen any risk.

I am as frustrated as many of you must be given the lack of information and as soon as I have any information I will share this with you. Many of you have been calling to ask for more information but we simply don't have it. I have waited as long as I feel that I can before sending this update out to you all.

I sincerely hope that in the morning, we have further guidance from the DfE and, at that point, I will need parents to urgently complete a short Google Form indicating if they require child-care from next week. If you do not qualify as a key worker or do not need child-care, then you do not need to complete the form.

Having this information ready for tomorrow morning will mean that we can plan up until Easter in the first instance.

Today was also disrupted by the fact that we lost water at lunchtime due to the burst water main in Littlebourne. Again, at the time of writing this, I do not know if we will be able to open tomorrow. It is likely that I won't be able to make this decision until tomorrow morning but as soon as I do know, I will update the school Facebook page, the school Twitter account and put an announcement on the school website as well as send out a ParentMail.

Thank you to all of you for coming to collect your children as soon as possible and for your continued support at this most challenging of times.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James Tibbles'.

James Tibbles,
Headteacher

