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EASTRY CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
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Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parents/ carers,

I'm sure that many of you will have been following the news last night and have picked up on the statement regarding school closures, but for those of you who may not have had the chance to see it yet, we wanted to make sure everyone was as up to date as possible.

It has been rare, since the start of the pandemic, that schools have been provided with much clarity or advance notice, but we are pleased that we now have at least some certainty about what will be happening in the coming weeks (although we are, of course, disappointed that we won't have everyone back in school for a little while yet). The key announcements from today in parliament are as follows:

- The **earliest** schools might 'begin to re-open' will be Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, which is the start of the third school week after the half-term holiday;
- There will be a plan/review set out on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February (the first day after the half-term holiday), with further updates;
- When the decision to return has been made, schools will get two weeks' notice of this.

Sadly, this means that we have at least four more school weeks of home-learning under the current arrangements. I know that this will be bitterly disappointing for many families and the children, but I hope that it provides some hope that there might be an end in sight, at least in terms of getting the children back into school.

Moving forwards, we will continue with everything that we have in place and keep seeking ways to keep everyone supported and motivated – we have been really pleased with the quality and quantity of learning you are submitting. Well done and thank you to you all.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read 'S Moss'.

Sarah Moss  
Headteacher