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Dear parents/carers Hope you are all OK!

It is officially half term from Friday 22nd May. We were due to shut for two weeks and re-open on 8th June. Due to the circumstances, we will continue to be open throughout the majority of half term for key worker children, however school will be completely shut on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th May. There will not be any calls to parents during these days and there will be no one in the school office to answer queries. I think you will agree that my staff need a complete break, even if just for a few days as they have continued to work throughout this crisis from the day school closed.

Between Monday 25^{th} May and Friday 5^{th} June, there will be very little in terms of home learning uploaded to Teams. I am encouraging staff to have a break - despite the fact they are still on shift for school over the next two weeks in preparation for us opening up to more children on 8^{th} June.

You will be aware from the 1^{st} June that schools have been asked by the Government to open for children in Reception, Y1, Y6 and where applicable, Nursery. Due to our half term dates, Elliston will be open on 8^{th} June for these year groups. We will update you with further information about this as we receive it.

There is a lot of negativity on the news and social media regarding this decision, and this is fuelled by public fear and worries. I just want to reassure you of something. We take our role of being accountable for your children extremely seriously every single day. We are very aware that you trust us with your children's safety and well-being as well as their education when they are in our care and we recognise the huge responsibility with this. Every day, my staff and I do everything in our power to protect your little ones as we would our own. This will not change in the coming weeks. My job is to ensure that the school is as safe as it possibly can be for children and staff to return and it goes without saying that I have planned this meticulously. I am extremely confident that we will have everything in place to ensure Elliston is as safe and secure an environment for children to come back as it can be, while still being the place of happy and exciting learning that they are used to.

Many thanks, yet again, for your support. We love reading all the messages you send to us and it is lovely to know that this current crisis has only served to strengthen Team Elliston even further.

With love and best wishes Mrs Patterson



