19th March 2020

**Latest Update**

Dear Parents and carers,

As you will be aware, schools will be closed at the end of the day on Friday 20th March. This has been difficult for us to come to terms with but we have obviously been planning for this eventuality. I would like to acknowledge the staff and governors for all the extra work they have put in this last week and for trying to carry on as normal under these unprecedented circumstances.

* Work for the children will be available on the class pages of the website from tomorrow. This is accessed from the menu at the top, second one along, classes. These will be updated weekly by the teachers.
* I will continue to communicate via School Spider either by text message or email. Please inform us tomorrow if you don’t have access to either.
* The school admin email will be checked once a day while school is closed- see address above.
* The telephone will be answered if school is open - number as above.

From Monday 23rd March we will be offering child care arrangements for key workers only. We are still awaiting confirmation from the Department for Education (DfE) as to which children and young people will be eligible for that childcare- we need the definition of a key worker from the government. This information is not yet available to us and we will send further information with details of the offer. Our current understanding of the advice from the government is that if one parent is a key worker and the other not, then child care arrangements will not apply, the other parent will remain home with their child. We know that this is a difficult time for everyone but it is important that everyone waits for and follows national advice and guidance.

For the rest of this school year all trips and visits have been cancelled. For parents that have paid towards these we will be organising refunds as soon as is possible.

We also ask that all balances on ParentPay are cleared as we are at year end and have to balance our books.

**Arrangements for Friday 20th March.**

* School will be open for anyone not self-isolating this week.
* We will be selling gingerbread socks for 50p at snack time and after school.
* Children can wear odd socks to celebrate Downs Syndrome Awareness Day.
* We will be selling raffle tickets for a huge egg and a number of smaller eggs 20p a go!
* School will finish at 3.15pm as normal.
* Link club will be open.

Thank you to the parents who have agreed to look after the guinea pigs, this is much appreciated.

This situation feels very strange and is making us quite anxious, there are lots of unanswered questions at the moment. We understand this but need to follow guidance from the government at this time. I will share everything I know, as I find out.

Keep safe everyone. I hope it is not too long until we get back to normal.

Until then, take care.

Mrs Helen Kelly