

Our Ref: SST/HBr

Monday 20th April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I do hope you are all well and keeping safe. I wanted to update you on a number of things, as follows:

School Closure

There has been a lot of speculation in the press recently regarding when all pupils will be able to return to school. I question just how helpful this speculation has been and feel it has created more uncertainty and anxiety over the last week than good. I wanted to reiterate that the school currently is open for key worker children and vulnerable pupils to attend, whilst the rest of our school community stay at home. The safest place for all of our pupils is to stay at home. I will not baulk from this position until directed to by the Secretary of State for education.

You may have seen the Secretary of State for education, Gavin Williamson, leading the Prime Minister's briefing last night. His opening speech can be found [here](#). Specifically, he said:

"People are anxious to know when we are going to relax restrictions and when schools are likely to be fully back and open again. Of course, I want nothing more than to get schools back to normal, make sure that children are sat around learning and experiencing the joy of being at school. But I can't give you a date, because before we do, we need to meet five tests:

- *First, we must protect the NHS's ability to cope and be sure that it can continue to provide critical care and specialist treatment right across the whole of the UK.*
- *Second, we need to see the daily death rates from coronavirus coming down.*
- *Third, we need to have reliable data that shows the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels.*
- *Fourth, we need to be confident that testing capacity and PPE are being managed, with supply able to meet not just today's demand, but future demand.*
- *And, fifth, and perhaps most crucially, we need to be confident any changes we do make will not risk a second peak of infections."*

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Principal

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BBC Bitesize

This week the BBC is launching its own education package as part of their Charter across TV and online; helping to keep children learning and supporting parents. You can find more information about this [here](#). I would encourage you to look at this and to direct your child to this.

Online guidance for parents/guardians

Information, guidance and support for parents/guardians can be found [here](#). This includes specific advice for parents/guardians on how education can continue at home for children aged 2-4, at primary school and with special educational needs and disabilities.

I hope that we all continue to stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Strickland
Principal