Monday 6th April 2020

Dear Parent carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you again for all your support over the past couple of weeks. We have all been very grateful of the supportive messages, appreciative of the photos and activities updates on Twitter and for those of us making welfare calls, it has been brilliant to chat with you all.

I am also writing to thank you, for adhering to the Government guidance of keeping your children safe and well in the family home.

Department for Education:

*‘We have asked parents to keep their children at home wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for children who are vulnerable and for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response who absolutely need to attend.*

*It is important to underline that schools, all childcare settings (including early years’ settings, childminders and providers of childcare for school-age children), colleges and other educational establishments, remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, will protect the NHS and save lives by reducing the risks of spreading the virus.*

*Schools, and all childcare providers, are therefore being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home’.*

We are currently able to provide care for a very small number of children (for whom the local authority has asked us to make provision). I would like to extend my thanks to parents for utilising us as the ‘last resort’ as requested. The safest and best option for our children is to be at home. We are all at risk and as I said when we took the decision to close school, my priority has to be the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff, which we can only manage to the best of our ability, if there are as few people in the building as possible to ensure we keep the social distancing element. So thank you for your understanding with this.

We will continue to support you all as families over the forthcoming weeks. As I have said, we have all really appreciated keeping in contact with you all and hope that you found this beneficial too. It is our duty of care to ensure that everyone is safe and well even though they are not in school. As these following two weeks are technically ‘holiday’, we are going to leave you in peace during these weeks but please don’t think that you can’t contact us! We are all still working so if you need us at all, please contact:

Tracey – 07935 223378

Sam Hayward - 07935223374

Shelley Hughes – 07716642824

From the 20th we will contact you all again as part of our welfare calls, and then move to fortnightly calls where appropriate. If you feel you need more than this, please just say and we will accommodate.

The key stage emails are still checked regularly. I have said to rest and relax over these next two weeks, you will all need it (!!) and then work and activity ideas will continue after this.

Please do not put yourselves under pressure to ‘teach’. All we want is that your time together at home has some structure to help you as families, but more importantly that you offer your child, as I know you do, a place in which to feel safe and comfortable and away from potential risks of catching this virus. If you manage to get work from your child, brilliant! If you don’t, just knowing you have kept them safe and well for another day, is all that is important. We don’t know how long this will continue for, but what we do know and what we are preparing for, is the hard work we will put in to bring your child’s learning back to where it should be once we can return to normality.

This is our situation at the moment. Where anything changes or is likely to change, I will of course be in touch again.

Please keep sending us photos for Twitter, it really does help seeing the children looking so happy, well and safe. If you are not following us, our Twitter is @RigbyHsch. It has helped some children knowing that we are all looking at their work and activities and continuing to celebrate them and their achievements.

Enjoy your Easter break together. Stay home, stay safe, stay well and keep smiling.

Tracey