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Headteacher – Mr Richard Kitching

Sunday, 22nd March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: School Closure due to COVID 19 and Next Steps.

Following the decision by the Government to close all schools to pupils (except for a small number of children in exceptional circumstances) we are now in a position to reflect on the rapid change of events of last week and plan the next steps going forward as best we can in this unprecedented and challenging situation as the whole world battles the spread of COVID 19. At the moment, we do not know how long the Government will keep schools closed for but hopefully it will not be for too long. I am writing to you to highlight a few key points at this moment in time.

Continuation of Learning at Home

Many of you have now been placed in the difficult situation of trying to home school your children at very short notice. This may well be an overwhelming prospect for some of you and the ability and capacity to provide learning opportunities will vary significantly from one family to another depending on individual family circumstances. I want to make it clear that although school is closed to the vast majority of pupils, the staff at Egginton will still try and support you to facilitate learning as best as we possibly can in the circumstances.

To begin with, we have placed a wide range of learning resources on the school website in the new 'Coronavirus Updates' section. The pupils also went home with a paper copy of the learning tasks on Friday. There are lots of great website links and learning tasks here, many of which your children will be familiar with already including Sum Dog and Times Table Rockstars.

I would particularly like to draw your attention to the 'Websites to Support Learning' document currently in the top left hand corner of the Resources Grid. There is an extensive list of websites here, but one that I would definitely recommend looking into as a priority is the Twinkl website. This is a fantastic website that is now offering free resources to schools and parents and carers during the Coronavirus crisis. The code parents need to enter to access the resources for free is UKTWINKLHELPS. Once registered, search 'school closures pack' and you will find a comprehensive resource packs for each school year group for you to access. There is more than enough material here for pupils to work through in a structure and pace that suits your family situation between now and what would have been the Easter break.

Teachers are currently planning more bespoke learning sequences for their classes to fit in with our whole school summer term topic theme, 'It's a Wonderful World' and we will provide you with more details after the Easter break. We will also be working with the Local Authority and our cluster of schools to consider more effective ways to support learning at home if it transpires that schools will close for an extended period of time during the summer term.

Lines of Communication

It is important that parents and carers continue to check Parentmail and the school website on a regular basis for updates concerning the Coronavirus situation and also for pupils' learning guidance and resources. Mrs Pepper will continue to check the school email as frequently as possible and, if you do need to contact your class teacher for guidance or support, please put 'FAO (*teacher's name*)' and they will aim to get to get back to you as quickly as possible. Alternatively, there will be a 'skeleton staff' on the school site whilst the school is able to remain open so if you phone the school office we will try and answer your call or will endeavour to call you back if you leave a message on the voicemail. Miss Funnell will continue to update the Derwent Class Dojo page and check for messages from parents and carers on there.

Assuming I have not had to self-isolate, I will be contacting the parents and carers of each family over the next few days to see how you are all getting on and try to help with any questions you may have.

Critical Worker/ Vulnerable pupil provision at school

On Friday, I spoke to most parents and carers that felt they came into this category and by the end of the day I was able to draw up a register of pupils expected to attend over the next couple of weeks. If you are a critical worker (as defined by the government list – see letter dated 20th March) and you feel you may need to utilise the available provision at school at some point in the forthcoming weeks but have not arranged this with me already, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can either phone school or email me directly at headteacher@egginton.derbyshire.sch.uk for this purpose.

Symptoms and Self-Isolation

A reminder that the two most common symptoms of coronavirus to look out for are:

- A new, continuous cough
- A high temperature (above 37.8 degrees C)

If someone develops these symptoms they must stay at home for at least 7 days and all other members of the household that remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

Full government guidance is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

This continues to be an ever changing situation and we will aim to keep you updated with new information as best as we possibly can as we move forward.

On a final note, I want to say thank you for all of your support, patience and understanding during the last unbelievably challenging week.

Egginton Primary School has always been renowned for its supportive partnerships and strong community spirit. We need to draw on this community spirit now more than ever before. I know you will all do your absolute best to help to support each other, protect our pupils, their families and our local and wider community during this difficult period.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Richard Kitching

Headteacher

