20th March, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

On this unusual day, I would like to assure you that we will be here for you throughout

the period of school closure. You may just want a chat or inform us about how your child is dealing

with the social distancing requirements in the fight against COVID-19; please call or email!

We care very much about you and your child. Crucially, we are acutely aware of the need to look

after you and your child’s mental wellbeing. We want you to know that we will do all we can to try to

retain some form of normality and routine in your child’s life. We also want to support their education

so to minimise any disadvantaged during the closure.

By working on the educational tasks set, children will reduce a sense of boredom or frustration. This

will improve their mood and feelings.

There will be PE activities posted on to the student area of our website every week in order for your child to

remain active and not fall into unhealthy patterns of behaviour, which in turn can make them feel

worse.

Here are some ideas from the NHS website of what you can do as a family to support your

wellbeing:

#spend time doing things you enjoy – this might include reading, cooking, other indoor hobbies or

listening to the radio or watching TV programmes

# try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, drink enough water, exercise regularly, and try to avoid

smoking, alcohol and drugs

# keep your windows open to let in fresh air, get some natural sunlight if you can, or get outside into

the garden

You can also go for a walk outdoors if you stay more than 2 metres from others.

I am sending a separate letter outlining details of what to do if you are a key worker.

Please keep in touch. We will get through this together.

At this difficult time, I thank you for your efforts in reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. You

will know more than most the importance of social distancing and people staying at home wherever

possible.

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children

can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the

government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools

to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. We have a duty of care for

our staff and we are trying to minimise the number of staff required in school in our fight against this

virus.

It is important to underline that school remains a safe place for children. However, the fewer children

making the journey to school, and the fewer children in school, the lower the risk that the virus can

spread and infect vulnerable individuals in our wider society.

As a school, we are 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 have corresponded with families this week but please in form us if you are choosing to isolate at home and use the home education provided.

If you think you fall within the critical categories , you should confirm with your employer that,

based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation

of this essential public service.

This is an incredibly difficult time for all of us. Please do not be offended if we ask for proof of your

role in public service from your employer. We simply need to protect our pupils, our staff and the

wider society from the spread of this awful virus.

Next steps:

1. Check with your employer that your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this

essential public service and please send a letter from your employer to confirm this and your work pattern to [Emma@diamond-families.org.uk](mailto:Emma@diamond-families.org.uk) to confirm this fact.

2. Contact us by the end of Monday 23rd March in order to confirm that you are a key worker

who meets the above and will need childcare. Please give the name of your line manager

and contact number to Reception as they will be contacted. Please note that no normal

lessons will operate due to severely reduced staffing. Children will complete the

same activities that those at home are working on.

3. Please confirm how your child will be dropped off and collected

4. You will need to communicate with us regarding sickness and absence as you would usually

do.

5. In case of illness or an emergency in school, please change emergency contact

details of elderly relatives or others who are vulnerable as we will have to call them if you are

not available.

6. Please inform school every Monday morning what provision is required for the following

week. Remember that

your child should not attend unless it is absolutely necessary to protect our society.

If staffing levels drop to an unsustainable level due to the virus, we will inform you to contact the

Local Authority who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or

children, can attend.

I thank you, in anticipation, for your co-operation. Most importantly, thank you for your work in

Yours sincerely

Emma