

7<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope my update finds you and your loved ones well. I last wrote to you two weeks ago and during that time the world has continued to come together in its fight against this virus. I have also heard how our own school community and the community of Tetbury continues to pull together to support one another and keep each other safe. If any families have been affected by the virus or if you are struggling with the effects of the lockdown – please get in touch with us and we will do our best to help you. I know Mrs Silins has been a point of contact for many families and we have been able to provide help in a variety of ways to ease some of the pressure.

### **Online learning**

We have had very positive feedback from lots of families about the online learning on Seesaw and Tapestry. I know the vast majority of children are accessing the work and the staff are enjoying seeing the things children are doing at home. I have seen some really wonderful and uplifting contributions from many of you. We have managed to help out some families who do not have devices for children to work on. If you would like help please email the office and we can try and assist you.

I continue to stress that whilst it is important that the children continue with their reading, writing and maths during this time, parents must also take into account what is feasible and not get too concerned if the children don't get everything done. Please look after your own mental health too! I appreciate that every family has different circumstances and these are constantly changing with government advice. The teachers work very hard to get the balance right between enough work and not too much – but despite our best efforts, we will not be able to get it right for everyone. Please be aware that many of the teachers also have their own children at home and are in a similar position in that they are working at home and home schooling their own children.

### **Statutory testing**

If we were at school, the Year 6 children would be completing their SATS tests next week. You may have seen in the media that all statutory tests have been cancelled this year so the Year 6 children will not sit their SATS and other assessments such as the Year 1 phonics test and KS1 SATS tests will also not take place.

### **Re-opening of schools**

You will have heard in the media that we are anticipating an announcement from the Prime Minister on Sunday about the next phase of the country's response to the pandemic including the phased re-opening of schools. School leaders are as keen as anyone to get schools open again. We understand how much children need school – not just for the academics but also for their social interaction and their emotional well being and I would like nothing more than to stand on our school field and see all our pupils playing together again.

Headteachers do not have any additional information and we will hear the plans at the same time you do, so I am unable to provide further clarification around this. I do know that school leaders

have stressed the importance of planning for this. Some of the issues we are trying to work around include:

- How do we ensure that children, staff and parents are not at increased risk of infection?
- How do we ensure we have enough staff in school?
- How do we maintain social distancing in a classroom?
- What do we do about staff, children, parents with underlying health conditions?
- How do we organise drop off and pick up times to maintain social distancing?
- Do children and staff need PPE?
- What do we do about handwashing and hand sanitisers and cleaning down to prevent infection?
- How should children move around the corridors at breaktimes and lunchtimes?

These are just some of the questions we need answers to and a lot of thought has to go into reorganising the school environment to adhere to social distancing guidance. This is why schools will need time to reopen and it would be impossible to go from being closed to being fully open overnight. Please be assured however that the health and safety of our all members of our school community will be the utmost priority in our decision making process.

As soon as I have further information, I will update all parents and carers. In the meantime thank you again for your 'can do' attitude, for sharing the children's enthusiasm and enjoyment with us and for your ongoing support and encouragement. I know it makes a huge difference to the staff team.

With all our best wishes,

Mrs Woolley

Headteacher