17th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Am writing to you following the announcement this week that England will continue to be socially isolating for another 3 weeks. This means that school will remain closed and that EduCare and Home Learning arrangements will also be staying in place until further notice.

**Keeping In Touch calls**

Over the next few weeks, we will be aiming to telephone every family just to say hello and to check how things are going. We very much want you to feel connected and supported by school at this difficult time. If you haven’t already had a call, then your child’s teacher or class teaching assistant will be in touch over the next few weeks. However, there is always someone in school so if you want or need anything, please do not hesitate to call us too on the school number (01752 225319).

**Home Learning**

This week is the first week of our Summer Term and the children will be starting learning for their new topic areas. Although we would love you to do as much learning as you can with your children, I want to state again that it really must be manageable for you and your family. We do not want it to become difficult or stressful – we know that on some days your child(ren) might not be in the right mood for learning and that is fine. What I ask is that you try to do some learning each week, whether that is on Google Classroom or on paper.

We are offering paper pack of learning for those families who cannot easily access Google Classroom. We have made new packs to cover this week and next week for families who have requested them OR for children who we can see have not been accessing Google Classroom. If you have a pack waiting for you to collect, we will have sent you a text/email reminder. Please come into school to pick them up as soon as you can.

**Celebration Certificates**

Next week we are launching our ‘Home Learner of the Week’ celebration certificates! The teachers have been really impressed with the amount of learning taking place and are keen to keep rewards and certificates up and running. Each week there will be a certificate for someone in the class who has impressed their teacher with their learning. We want to include both the children using Google Classroom and those with paper packs so if there has been some great home learning going on please send a photo/video clip or the actual learning itself to the class teacher using the ‘chief animal’ class email address (e.g. chiefdolphin@ppsonline.org, chiefpenguin@ppsonline.org). We would also love to see any other activities that your children have been doing at home too.

**Cancelled Activities** **- Plymouth Half Marathon**

Obviously, many activities that we had booked and planned for the coming term have now been cancelled. One of these is the Plymouth School’s Half Marathon Challenge which many children signed up to. We have been in touch with the organisers, RedRok, who have confirmed that this event has been cancelled.

RedRok have explained that **no refunds will be issued** and that the pupils will still receive their T-Shirt, medal and goody bag. Schools will then arrange for children to complete the half marathon challenge once back in school.

**Free School Meals – Government Voucher Scheme**

We have started to use the Government Voucher scheme for families eligible for free school meals starting from this week. Unfortunately, many families are still awaiting their allocated vouchers as the company providing the vouchers, EdenRed, have struggled to cope with the demand. I can assure families that school is doing all it can to find out when vouchers are going to be sent to you and that you won’t miss out on any voucher owed.

**Finally, other news**

We welcome back from maternity leave Miss Dale, who has returned to work with us in Year 3. Miss Dale is taking over from Mrs O’Leary in Geckos class who is starting a period of maternity leave herself! We wish Mrs O’Leary all the best as she gets ready for her new arrival.

Congratulations to Mrs Garland from Year 4 Lions Class who has recently become a very proud mummy to a beautiful baby boy. Lovely news!

The next newsletter will be in a fortnight. Please take care and stay safe.

All the best,

Mrs Meek and all the team at Pilgrim