3rd April 2020

Dear Parent / carers,

Firstly, in a time of daily reports of rising numbers of people affected by the Coronavirus in our country and across the globe, I sincerely hope that your immediate and extended family are managing to stay well and healthy – wherever they are. Sadly, predictions tell us that the number of cases will continue to rise over the coming weeks and that the social distancing measures that we are currently experiencing will remain. I have had no indication at all yet as to when schools will return to their normal function and it is possible that we will be in this situation for a number of months rather than weeks. I will let you know as and when I have any information.

I wanted to keep in touch about a number of things:

**Easter Activities/Home Learning**

For those families who would like to something to keep the children busy during this holiday time, teachers have added some fun activities and links to their Google Classroom pages. This is not official home learning and it is a choice so please do not feel that you need to do it.

Home Learning activities will begin again with the new term after next week. The easiest way to access this learning is **via Google Classroom** and for the majority, this is working really well. For those families who cannot access Google Classroom, a paper pack will be available and these will need to be collected from school – more details to follow. Obviously, we want to limit the number of people having to come out of their homes and into school for any reason so please **only use the paper packs if absolutely necessary.** Unfortunately, we are not able to take the packs back in and get them looked at or marked in the way that Google Classroom allows – many staff are now not working on the school site. If you want help to get up and running with Google Classroom we can help you so please email: techsupport@ppsonline.org or contact the school office.

**EduCare Facility**

A number of staff are still working through the holiday to keep this service going for children of Critical Workers. So far, we have had children in every day but it has been difficult to know how many children we are expecting. So, from now on, we are going to use a weekly booking form and, as much as possible, we are asking that you book your child’s place in advance so that we can allocated correct staffing. Eligible families will be sent the form via email - please return the form for the week ahead by email each Friday.

**Families in receipt of Free School Meals**

We will be starting to use the **Government Free School Meals Voucher scheme at the start of the Summer Term (Tuesday 14th April).** Those families eligible for FSM will receive a separate letter about this. If you believe that you are in receipt of FSM but you do not receive a letter in the next few days from school about this (emailed) please contact the school office (01752 225319) or use the email: contactus@ppsonline.org and we will investigate.

**‘Grab and Go’ packed lunches are available to all FSM eligible families throughout the Easter Holiday (including Good Friday and Easter Monday). Please do come to collect them from school Reception area.**

**Year 6 SATS (Statutory Testing) and Year 1 Phonic Screening Checks**

The Government has confirmed that both the above statutory tests have been cancelled for this academic year – we are waiting to hear how our Year 6 pupils will be given assessment grades at the end of their Primary phase.

**Communication and use of Emails**

From the beginning of the Summer Term (Tuesday 14th April) I will send out this type of news letter once a fortnight or more regularly if required. **I will be sending it via email only** as we cannot commit to regularly posting out so many paper copies. So please, please **let school know an email address for your family if you have not already done so. If you receive this letter by post, it means that we do not have an email for you.** If this is the case, please get in touch – we can help you set up an email account if you would like to.

All letters will be posted on the school website so please also check for communication and messages there regularly.

Finally, I would like to wish you a happy Easter Holiday. I know it does not feel very much like a holiday time for many; for those of you whose jobs require you to carry on working or for those of you who continue to be socially distancing and indoors much of the time. However, I think now more than ever, is a time to count small blessings and appreciate our health and families.

Take care and best wishes,



Mrs L Meek and all at Pilgrim