Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to outline arrangements for the continued provision of distance learning for children who will remain at home when the school partially reopens on 1st June.

Teachers will still be making work available for your children. However, this will look a little different to recent weeks. In order to fulfil the government guidance regarding group sizes in schools, we need almost all of our teachers to be working in classes full time. This means it is not possible for them to provide work to the same level as they have been since the school closed to all children but those of Key Workers. This is acknowledged in the government guidance.

We plan to return to a system similar to the very first week of school closures and provide tasks once a week. These will be sent to your children via a message on eSchools and will contain some Maths and English (enough for some each day) and then some other activities to complete throughout the week. If you wish to return this work to school, you can do so by sending it via an eSchools message to your child’s class teacher, with the relevant work attached to the message. During our time in lockdown teachers have been available to mark and feedback daily on the work that has been set. Unfortunately, this will no longer be possible and feedback on the work may be given weekly. This work may lean heavily on that provided by BBC Bitesize and White Rose Hub (who are working in collaboration). Mr Nicholl will be available throughout each day on eSchools (via message) if you have any queries or questions about the work your child has been set.

I appreciate you may be still trying to work from home *and* support your children, so however much you are able to complete will be fine. If your child is in Year R, 1 and 6 and is not returning to school, we will try to align the work completed at home as closely as possible with the work being completed in school.

I am conscious that there will now be a number of children in school but even more still at home. I do not want us to seem like we are two separate schools. The sense of community in the school and across all stakeholders is one of its strongest assets, so it is important this does not get lost. To achieve this, I will still be providing daily videos each morning via eSchools, will still be recording audiobooks and still be creating achievement assemblies each week. As we move through this term, we will try to run events as a whole school as much as possible. For example, the children at home may be able to contribute to sports day in a virtual way and we can still run our House Music competition by accepting video entries.

At the moment, we have no guidance on what a return to school for Years 2 -5 will look like, so I am not able to outline when a return to school will be likely, or how we will accommodate more children under the current guidelines. As soon as it becomes clearer, I will write to you with our plan.

As ever, thank you for your continued support – it makes a huge difference.

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Alastair Haywood

Headteacher