



Dear School Community

I thought I would take this opportunity to send an update of what has been happening in school and to see how everyone is coping at home.

Well the week has been another turbulent one with the Prime Minister announcing a partial lockdown for everyone except key workers. I appreciate that this has been challenging for many of you and social distancing is not easy at all.

I have been in school for the majority of the week, so only just getting a flavour of what it is like to be at home juggling home working whilst supporting my own children—you all have my sympathy!

In school I am pleased to say that we have been open to families of key worker children and to vulnerable children between 8am and 5:30pm. We have a new routine evolving: nothing like our usual one, but nevertheless workable. It is strange being in a large building with so few children to fill it. I can't believe how staff working have said they miss the noise which normally fills the school and playground, but I admit that it's true. We have hosted between 12 and 24 children each day and our offer is flexed to meet the needs of parents' shift patterns. We've loved seeing parents through the glass at pick up and hearing about how the outside world is operating. We have stringent cleaning practices in place and have sourced personal protective equipment to keep staff and children safe. As always, a huge thank you to staff who work on a volunteer basis around the clock to support the school in any way they can, both in the building and at home. Behind the scenes the staff all keep in contact, supporting those who are self isolating as well as providing a personal and professional network for those who remain fit and well.

We sent out supermarket vouchers to those of you entitled to free school meals and have delivered / posted the ones which weren't collected last week. The government is due to release a national voucher scheme which we will communicate to families as soon as information is available.

We are also working on how best to support you as families at home. I know that none of you chose this 'home schooling' way of life, as you opted to send your children to us each day. Please remember this time is not home schooling, but supporting a national crisis which at this point we don't know how long will last.

I am sure, like us, you have been bombarded with all the suggestion of what you 'should' be doing with your children. There are many options out there on the web; some good, but others not quite so good. We are collating the 'Pyrford approved' online sites for you which we will get to you when we have trialled them. We are also acutely aware that families just don't have enough gadgets to share around, so please don't feel pressured to be going online all the time. Use the time to learn other skills that schools aren't so well set up to teach, but that will stand your children in good stead in life, such as cleaning, cooking, gardening, riding a bike. We will also try to put something together for those without electronic gadgets so you can have work should you wish it. I'll communicate this once we have a plan in place (all dependent upon what the government plan to do regarding the partial lockdown).

In the meantime, keep safe and well. Make sure you get out and about for your daily exercise in the glorious sunshine.

Love

Kathryn Krynicki
Headteacher