



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The governors would like to pass on our thanks to parents for being so supportive at such a difficult time. We understand that this will be a very difficult time for some of you, many of you will be trying to balance the needs of your child with the pressures of work, some of you will be trying to cope with children in different years and studying a different curriculum and all of this comes at very short notice. We appreciate that this isn't easy for you, but the school absolutely depends on your co-operation and we are very grateful.

We would also like to pass on our sincere thanks to our staff, who have had a very difficult year. They have quickly adapted to new ways of working, they have worked some very long hours and in every difficult situation, in the face of every challenge they have always put the needs of our pupils first. We are all very lucky to have them.

The Prime Minister's broadcast began at 8pm on Monday night, by 8:30 our Headteacher Mrs Birchall had set up a call with myself, our Deputy Head Miss Mowatt and Father Paul to discuss our response. When we finished our conversation Mrs Birchall and Miss Mowatt had another call with the rest of the staff. We had some plans ready for such a contingency and the staff met the next day to discuss further steps. They have moved with real pace to get the new arrangements up and running so quickly and in such trying circumstances.

The decision was made to record classes for the children learning from home, rather than to have live lessons. There were two reasons for this. Firstly, some families may not have enough devices for everyone to work or learn at the same time. For example, if two parents are trying to work online at the same time as their three children are trying to watch live classes, this would require the family to have five separate devices.

The second reason is that it gives parents greater flexibility, they may not be able to help their child learn at the time that a lesson was set to be broadcast but would be able to a little earlier or later. With this approach they have some degree of freedom to manage this.

We appreciate that these arrangements will not suit everyone, but we have to make the best decision we can with the resources available and according to our best judgement. Again I would like to say how grateful we are to our parents, to our staff and to our pupils. The pupils have handled this strange and very worrying time so well that it sets a very high bar for the rest of us.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Rob Reynolds  
Chair of Governors

Together we DREAM, Together we Learn

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