Wednesday, 25 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family are coping as well as possible with the current situation. This is a challenging time for all of us but I do hope that you and your family are safe. We are thinking about you all.

I would like to make a heartfelt and sincere statement of thanks to you all for your sensible and calm approach to this current, often scary, situation. New Village parents have taken the Government’s advice to heart and have kept their children at home. Thank you! This is most certainly the safest thing to do to keep your family safe and well but it also means I can keep the school staff to an absolute minimum and keep them, and their families, safe and well too.

We are working hard to ensure that vulnerable families receive regular phone calls from a member of the staff team. This is to maintain contact between home and school. This may be from a private number as staff may be calling from their personal mobiles. You also have the school’s email contact at the top of the page. I have arranged the staff to work on a rota to support the social distances request.

As the school had to respond very quickly to the unfolding situation, work packs were produced for your child. As this weeks progress, we will come up with more accessible options and renew work packs if this proves viable. Don’t forget to visit our Facebook page where we will begin to post links and ideas for things you can do at home.

I know as parents you will feel that your role is to ‘home school’ your child. It is not. Your role is to be a parent! Some of you may have tried to put a timetable into place for your child; please don’t feel you have to. You and your child will find the next few weeks extremely challenging as you adjust to not being in school. Take the time to adjust and understand the situation around you.

For the time being allow them to explore the things that they want to do; reading, painting, playing with Lego, playing in your garden (where possible) etc. As time progresses you could build a little more routine into their day. For example, following the Joe Wicks Workouts on YouTube with your family, a bit of daily reading and then documenting this important event in history. They may want to do this in words, videos or pictures. This will be a moment that will be taught in years to come to your child’s children in history lessons.

Children will not receive any new teaching, while the school is closed, as it is impossible to teach primary school children online while checking their understanding, assessing gaps and planning next steps. (It is also impossible as not all children have access to their own electronic device that is connected to the internet.) Please don’t worry about this! We are experts at this; it is what we are trained for! Think about the weeks ahead as pressing the ‘pause’ button on your child’s academic learning. When we return to school, and we will, the staff will identify exactly where all of the children are at and plan where to start teaching from.

For the time being if you are at home please take care and look after yourself and your family. I hope you and your family also remain safe and well.

Mrs McKechnie

Headteacher

Bentley New Village School