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Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Laura Green

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace
1 Peter 4:10*

Work together, learn together, grow together...

Wednesday 18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Covid-19 Update Number 4

I am writing to you again with the next update on our response to the spread of Covid-19. Firstly, you will be aware that guidance on staying at home has changed and is set out below:

- Schools are not directed to close at this point. All decisions remain local decisions.
- Anyone with a new, continuous cough or high temperature (37.8 degrees plus) should stay at home for 14 days, as should every member of that household.
- Everyone should minimise social mixing in the community (being in school is not defined under Government guidance as social mixing).
- The Government is expected by the end of the week to direct all 'at risk' people to stay at home for a period of 12 weeks. At risk people include everyone over 70, pregnant women and anyone with a serious underlying health condition.

I would ask you to refer to the Government's latest guidance in deciding whether your child should attend school. I fully recognise these are difficult decisions and we support you in thinking about what is best for your family.

We have postponed our residential trip to Eaton Vale for our Year 4 children, which was due to take place from the 22nd to the 24th April. We hope to negotiate new dates for late September. We will let you know our decision, in due course, regarding the London Residential for Morley Year 5 and the Buxton Residential for Year 6 and Tacolneston Year 5.

We have cancelled all music lessons, staff training events and unnecessary visitors to our schools. There will not be Friday morning Reading Time for parents and children at Tacolneston and, as you are aware, we are asking parents to avoid entering the schools.

There is much discussion and debate about the Government's decision to keep schools open and, for as long as this remains the strategy, I am obliged to do this each day until this advice changes.

The starting point for decision-making every day always has to be whether the school has enough staff on site to keep the children safe. As more staff are required to stay at home, this will become more difficult. I support any member of staff who belongs to a vulnerable group and chooses to stay at home.

I want you to understand the process I undertake when making a decision and the possible scenarios over the next few days and weeks.

- Today, we plan for tomorrow and the starting point is: 'Do we have enough staff to open and keep children safe?'
- If we reach the point where we do not have enough staff to keep the whole school open, we will make a decision to see how much of the school we could keep open.
- If we decide to have a partial opening (i.e. not open for all children), we will work in a priority order, trying to stay open for Year 6 first of all, and we will confirm each day if this is sustainable.
- We are very conscious that we want to do everything we can to prevent workers in our health and social care systems having to take time off to look after their children.
- We will ensure we provide online work for Home Learning for pupils in the event of closure and we will also be providing an email address for parents (and children via their parents) to stay in contact with their class teachers.

We do not yet have solutions to some of these problems but we will do very soon. We are trying hard to continue to communicate clearly with you and give you as much notice as possible. You should expect changes in how we operate, including children not having their regular teachers or being in their regular groups.

I am very grateful for the kindness and support so many parents have shown us over the past few days. Our staff continue to do the right thing for our communities, discharging their duties as public servants.

We will do our very best to be open and honest with you. Please take care of yourselves and your families during this challenging time.

Kind regards



Laura Green

Executive Head Teacher