



Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear parents, guardians and children,

**Re: Distance Learning**

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

The school team have been reflecting and reviewing the number of pupils engaging in the google classroom activities.

It has become noticeable that since half term, there has been a steady decline in participation.

This could be due to a number of reasons.

We understand that Year 6 pupils may be involved in completing Transition Year 7 learning for their respective new high schools.

We also understand that a majority of Year 5 pupils are undertaking 11 plus studies, whilst other pupils in different year groups are involved in spiritual prayer studies of religious texts, and meditation.

We appreciate that some parents want to teach their child life skills such as riding a bike, cooking, baking, sewing, weaving, gardening. These are all motivating learning opportunities.

I must add that little interest has been demonstrated by pupils in areas of Sanskrit, PRE, Music, Virtual Sports day. This is concerning. We know that these areas of learning are of equal importance to Maths and English.

After much thought, for these reasons, from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, we will stop sending specific distance learning tasks via google classroom.

We cannot do just what we want in terms of home learning as we have guidelines from the unions and the DfE which are very clear including information regarding safeguarding. We have to be particularly careful around zooming (which some parents have requested). As a result, the government have funded the Oak Academy and BBC resources which are available to all parents and provides some on-line teaching.

Therefore, as we move forward please look at the school website.

- Go to the appropriate Year Group tab
- We are encouraging children to complete daily tasks that are produced by the various recommended websites
- As always, the key to much success is developing a reading habit. Please continue to read, discuss and debate to improve speaking and listening skills
- Keep up to date with Newsround





Whilst this is a 'remote' curriculum, we feel passionately that it shouldn't be exclusively screen-based and therefore wherever possible, we hope to encourage your children to step away from the computer screen and to benefit from the holistic benefits of physical exercise, scientific exploration, art and play which I am sure if you cast your mind back to when you were a child, you know this translates as one of the best forms for learning.

Finally, the government have promised lots of things from food vouchers, summer catch up classes that will be carried out in community centres by retired teachers or companies to close the gap, laptops for disadvantaged pupils. Furthermore, on Monday, we heard the announcement of improving buildings that require repairs. These are all relevant and needed resources. However, much of these initiatives are ideas and we await patiently to hear the exact details. Of course, we will share the information with yourselves as soon as we can.

Currently the school team, who can attend work are preparing for September. We are creating curriculum overviews and plans so that we can get the children up to speed and enhance their confidence and resilience to meet the new challenges ahead. We want the school to be fully opened, mitigating health and safety risks. We want to teach in the classrooms and to create lots of exciting learning opportunities.

We thank you for your continued support as we work in partnership for the best outcomes.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs Bindu Rai  
Principal

