



Dear Parents and Carers.

Sadly, here we are again. But we've been here before. We'll get through this together!

If the last lockdown was anything to go by, the children surpassed all expectations and emerged back in school as calmer young people with a deepened sense of how we care for and consider others as well as ourselves – a legacy that we can all be proud of.

Staff are positive and over the moon about how well this week has gone – thank you for everything you are doing, your support has been incredibly uplifting this week since Monday's surprise announcement.

### In-school provision

As you know, school is open to educate the children of critical workers and those with vulnerable circumstances. Children are being provided with the same curriculum regardless of whether they are in school or at home. It is early days and staff are currently managing the children at home at the same time as teaching the group that are in school – we truly appreciate everyone's patience and support so far in recognising this – you have been amazing thank you.

Having heard that some schools currently have 65% of their pupils in the building I am VERY appreciative that you as families have been measured about this new era of the pandemic, only sending your child if you need to. Again, thank you for taking this sensible approach.

### Learning at Home

The responses and engagement with home learning have been outstanding this week and, as time goes on, we hope that the children will be able to operate this with a much greater level of independence. They have shown us their true potential and many of their wonderful characteristics like resilience and effort – we could not be prouder of them and you for navigating through this week.

The remit of closing schools to most pupils this time was to reduce the numbers and contacts people have but with a very clear message from the government that learning continues in the same way as if the children had remained in school. Last time we opened as emergency childcare which was a completely different remit. Because the curriculum is continuing as it should have done, we are very conscious that pupils do not fall behind their peers, which will happen if they don't complete their remote learning. This is the expectation set by the government and we will do everything we can to support your child.

We know how difficult it is to work from home and have your child/ren remotely learning at the same time (many of our staff go home to educate their own children after work and fully appreciate the situation...!!) so you must get in contact if things become difficult or your child is struggling – We Can Help.

Please take care, have a restful weekend and get in touch in the usual ways with any problems.

Melissa Shirley