



## *All Individuals Matter*

March 17th 2020

Dear Parents

Following the letter that I sent out to parents on March 12<sup>th</sup> I wanted to keep parents informed of the work that is taking place in school currently to monitor risk and prepare for any future development. Once again I will reiterate that The Chair of governors, Mr Matt Evans, and I are in continual communication regarding Winchelsea's strategy and role with dealing with the current Coronavirus/Covid-19 outbreak.

Please can I firstly request that parents are considerate to office staff and the great increase they are seeing in emails and phone calls to school. They are not able to advise you on individual health concerns that you may have regarding your child and therefore you must make the decision about whether your child attends school. They have the same information that is available to parents through the allocated websites or phone helplines. It is imperative that our phone lines are kept as clear as possible for emergencies and we ask for your support in these difficult times. We would also ask parents not to enter school at the beginning and end of the day wherever possible as we are trying hard to manage and contain the safety of our school environment.

With the recently elevated discussion regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the news, we want you to know that we continue to closely monitor the situation and follow guidance from the Department for Education and Public Health and there still currently remains **NO recommendation to close schools in our area.** However, we have worked hard to respond as rapidly as possible to an ever-changing set of circumstances and have carried out a thorough risk assessment and put in place a detailed set of precautionary protocols in order to develop a plan should it become necessary for school closure where each weekday would still count as a school day for students. In other words, the physical school buildings would be closed, but students would maintain learning in one form or another. Please note, that the determination to close schools due to a public health-related issue is made by government officers and not by individual Headteachers or Governing bodies.

It is important to be prepared and doing so should not correlate to increased concern. As always, the pupils and their families and staff of Winchelsea are our number one priority and we want to do what is right for our students and be prepared should a public health-related school closure become necessary. As always, we will send important updates as necessary, but please remember to use the relevant NHS and departmental sites for any questions that you have concerning the Coronavirus.

In the event of school closure, each teacher will be providing methods for you to access a range of home learning in order to support some form of continuity of learning for all of our pupils. We would hope that parents will appreciate the importance of continuing to provide learning opportunities for children at home so that the hard work and progress that has been made so far this academic year is not wasted. We appreciate that this may be challenging, as in these rare circumstances there will be implications with your own work circumstances and unexpected childcare arrangements which we of course understand, but appreciate that as always you will support us in the best way possible to benefit your children.

With the exception of Diamond class who will have a "Sparkly Support" pack, each teacher will provide tailored numeracy learning opportunities through Mathletics which will be matched to the age –appropriate sections of the numeracy curriculum that your child would be following if they were in school. Mathletics can be accessed from computers, laptops, ipads and other mobile devices and we will be sending home the log-in details for each individual child in case these have been forgotten. The children have had access to Mathletics for a long time, this is nothing new, and many children enjoy the challenges and earn certificates regularly. However, there is a learning section that can be controlled by teaching staff and by logging in you and your child will find work provided. Please be aware that until this set work is completed your child will no longer simply be able to play the games at this time.



Similarly, Spellodrome has a learning feature built in and staff will be providing access to word lists and spelling work. Again log-in details will be sent home as a reminder. So watch out for the log-on cards for both of these learning portals in book bags or ask your child for them – contact class teachers if they do not materialise!

Alongside these two learning areas we would encourage you to continue reading with your child regularly and practicing mental maths verbally such as times tables, number bonds or simple counting exercises for younger children.

For all other topic learning this is a harder area to provide for and I am sure parents will appreciate that teachers could not provide work to cover these areas for indefinite periods of time. Therefore we are proposing that parents follow their class teacher on Twitter where they will be provided with a topic learning document which will set out suggested areas for learning or project work of different kinds linked to the year group topics. This will take the form of a simple topic web similar to some homework suggestion sheets that many teachers currently use. These will be uploaded to Twitter by midday every Monday.

If you are new to Twitter and would like some guidance please talk to class teachers who will be happy to help. Please be assured that it really is not difficult and it is a very simple and effective way of keeping up-to-date about everything that is going on in school. If you start by following me: Helen Duckett@Winchelsea1 you will find other members of staff linked to my account.

All teachers have been part of the discussions about our plans to continue to provide learning resources for you in the event of school closure and we aim to provide a consistent and fair approach for all age groups. There may be some slight variations to cater for different age groups which is understandable e.g. Year 6 may have additional materials to support their preparation for SATs and Early Years may need different resources rather than what can be provided through online platforms.

At the bottom of this letter I have also listed some useful websites that you may find useful.

Finally, we have made some changes to our work in school whilst we remain open. Currently we have made the decision to limit the events that we had planned in order to minimise contact. **Therefore there will be no more daily assemblies in school where all children and staff come together and the Easter celebrations to which parents were invited are now sadly cancelled. Similarly we have cancelled the FOWS Easter activities so there will be no chocolate non-uniform day, no Easter egg raffle and no Chocolate Bingo evening.** Many football, netball and other sporting fixtures have been cancelled and we are talking regularly with outside providers about their involvement with school.

I hope this information has been helpful. Please be assured that our provision at Winchelsea is being regularly reviewed and assessed with the aim of keeping everyone in our school community as safe as possible whilst maintaining the good educational provision that we are proud of.

Kind regards

Miss Helen Duckett  
Head Teacher

Mr Matthew Evans  
Chair of Governors

Websites that might be useful:

[www.bbc.c.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.c.uk/bitesize)

[www.pobble365.com](http://www.pobble365.com)

[www.coolmaths.com](http://www.coolmaths.com)

[www.primarygames.com](http://www.primarygames.com)

[www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)

[www.mathschase.com](http://www.mathschase.com)

