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Dear Parents,

How very strange to be welcoming you back to term 5 in these circumstances. I hope that you have all been able to stay safe and well over the Easter break.

Whilst school is closed for the large majority of children, it has remained open over Easter and continues to be open on the days required by critical keyworkers. The staff who are well are working on a rota basis to provide this cover and when not in school they continue to work from home.

Yesterday, we held our first virtual staff meeting. It was so wonderful to see each other and be able to chat as well as discuss work, it gave everyone a real boost. With this in mind, we have decided to look at different options in order for teachers to record short videos which can then be shared with the children. Hopefully, it will have the same positive impact on their wellbeing.

Teachers and teaching assistants have already been in contact with some of you by telephone since lockdown commenced and we will continue to do this, so please expect a call from each of your child's teachers. When they call, it will appear as 'no caller id' so please do not be alarmed. The staff obviously want to speak to you as parents to find out how things have been, but importantly, they would also like to speak to your child. Again, hopefully this will be a real boost for them.

Work continues to be set by the teachers weekly. Speaking from experience with my own children, I am quite pleased that there is now a bit of purpose to their day. There is no expectation for the children to be studying for the whole day as they would usually in school. I know, from the photos that have been sent in, that the children have been learning through play and other creative activities at home. This learning is just as valid. I reiterate that everybody's mental health and wellbeing is paramount at the moment – so do what you can!

The media has been rife with speculation on the date of schools reopening, as yet there is no date. We will only open when the government suggest it is 'right' to do so. We will be guided by them alongside Local Authority advice.

As soon as we have an update on which platform we are going to use to share video clips, we will be in touch again.

Take care and stay safe.

Kirsty Robson