President Road | Aylesbury | Buckinghamshire | HP18 0YA
Tel: 01296 326320 | e-mail: admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk
Website: www.greenridgeacademy.co.uk | Twitter: @GreenRidgeR2

Headteacher: Mr. Aaron Wanford MA, B.Ed. (Hons), NPQH

Thursday, 19th March 2020

Coronavirus – COVID-19 Update #5

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister's announcement last night informed us that schools would be closing on Friday, until further notice. At this point in time, we are still in discussions with REAch2, and waiting for further information from the Department for Education about the practicalities of this; in his speech, Boris Johnson explained that the school would remain open for child care for children of 'key workers' and vulnerable children. Like all schools, we are seeking clarification as to which individual families and children this will apply to, and how this will be managed.

We have been putting in plans for a closure over the last week, and so the news last night is not a surprise; however, I recognise there will be some confusion about how the school will remain open for some children and what this means for you. I worked with staff last night on contingency plans for Green Ridge, and I continue to do so today. At this stage, our plans are not finalised, and I do not wish to communicate anything incorrectly to you. For this reason, I will update you again by the end of today, so that you are informed of what is happening and how this might affect your child and your family.

Work for pupils at home

The staff have been working throughout this week to try and put activities/resources together for all pupils to take home tomorrow. A letter from each year-group will come out at some point tomorrow explaining more about what activities we are providing for the children whilst the school is closed initially.

Reading books are being changed today and tomorrow, and we are hoping to try and send at least three, if not four, reading books home with your child. However, due to the stage/phase each child is on, it may not be possible for every child to bring home three or four, as we only have a limited supply of phonics books ourselves. We endeavour to supplement the books sent home in Early Years/Key Stage One with additional donated books we have been given, which can still be used and read at home with adults. Therefore, please bear with us if your child does not come home with reading books today – they will tomorrow. We are currently working our way through the school, and this is taking time to ensure each child has the right books.

National assessments

The Department for Education have confirmed that the 2019/20 national curriculum assessments will not take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that the following assessments planned between April and July 2020 have been cancelled:

- end of key stage 1 assessments (including tests and teacher assessment for Year 2)
- phonics screening check (for Year 1 and Year 2 pupils)
- multiplication tables check (for Year 4 children)

I just wanted to say thank you again for your support at this time; I recognise there is much uncertainty, but we are maintaining business-as-usual in school for our pupils and trying to alleviate any fears or worries the children, and yourselves have. This is a time where we need to come together as a community and work together, and we are very lucky that so many of you have offered your support in however many ways you can – whether this is buying us milk, getting us cleaning materials or helping us photocopy work. We genuinely appreciate all this support, and we may well be in contact over the next few weeks if we find ourselves in a situation where we need to reach out.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Aaron Wanford
Headteacher