

28 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I would normally be welcoming children back into school after enjoying a lovely Easter break with friends and families but we have all experienced something a little different this year! I still hope, however, that you were able to keep in touch with loved ones via social media, or over the phone as it is vital that we look after one another throughout these uncertain times.

Our schools remained open for the children of key worker parents throughout the Easter holidays and staff have been working tirelessly, both in schools and behind the scenes, to ensure this continues to run smoothly. Despite these unusual circumstances, it really has been a busy time for education! Staff are being creative, flexible and innovative in the work that they are producing so that your child's education can continue at home. There is also a great deal of careful thought and planning that is being done to ensure that we are ready and able to reopen our doors to as many children as possible, once we get the green light from government of course.

As a special tribute to our key workers and as a way of thanking them for everything that they are doing for us, staff and children who have been in schools have been busy creating an amazing surprise. It's not quite ready to be unveiled yet, but do keep an eye on our website and social media channels – it will be worth the wait!

I am sure that you will join me in thanking our wonderful staff for all the hard work they are undertaking. I also feel that it is important to recognise the community support that many of our schools continue to provide, whether this be to local foodbanks or donating vital equipment to Worcestershire Hospital and local care providers.

Please continue to look at the resources that are available for your children on your school's website and also remember that you can use the resources from any other 'Rivers' schools and/or social media sites as well. In addition to this, there are an abundance of new resources that are available on websites such as BBC Bitesize and The Oak National Academy, both of which offer fantastic learning opportunities for your children. If you find that you are in need of any additional books for your child's work, then please contact your school office who will endeavour to help you with this and any requests you may have.

I want you to know that we acknowledge and appreciate that a lot of you are at home trying to work in difficult circumstances and may not be able to help and support with all the work that is being sent home for your child. We do not want you to worry about this and just ask that you do your best in these difficult times as substitute educators. Your child's physical, mental and emotional health are far more important and they will need your reassurance, love and care more than ever before, especially as they may hear potentially frightening things being spoken about at home and on the news.

Finally, you will undoubtedly have heard or seen speculation about when schools are due to re-open. I want to assure you that no answers have been provided at this moment in time, however, we will be listening and adhering to the government advice, which will be based on science and learning from other countries, and will relay any confirmed decisions as soon as we are able to.

Thank you for your continued support and please keep sharing the wonderful things that you are doing with your children at home.

Stay safe and look after each other.

Yours sincerely



Kate Brunt
Chief Executive Officer

