

Learning and Caring Together,  
“...they will flourish in the courts of our God.” (Psalm 92:13)

### COVID-19 School Closure Keeping in touch: Letter 3

9<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you have all managed to enjoy the spring sunshine and that your families continue to be safe and well. The children and staff in school certainly have. They have been building dens, gardening, riding bikes, painting a story wall for our library, having lots of Easter fun, completing their home learning pack work and much more!

There are sooooo many ‘stay at home’ ideas on line to support parents and children during school closures and we look forward to seeing and hearing what the children have all been up to. I hope you are finding the activities and ideas on our website newsletter useful too. Remember to send in pictures to Mrs Leese if you would like to share!

I am pleased to inform you that, as Information, Communication, Technology (ICT) and computing lead, Mrs Johnson has now decided on a system which will improve our communication further. Instead of sending a separate letter, I am including next steps for you here. The system that we will be introducing, as a trial in the first instance, is ‘Class Dojo’.

‘Dojo’ can be used to share **class stories**. A class story is used to share information and learning between home and school such as photographs of children learning, children’s work etc. Class stories are visible to all parents/carers of children in the class, the class teacher and staff in school. The story is not shared in the wider, public arena. ‘Dojo’ can also be used for **1-1 communication between home and the class teacher** such as sharing proud work, messages about lost/found uniform etc. These conversations will be visible to you, the class teacher and leaders in school. They are not shared in the wider, public arena. Whilst the school remains closed, Dojo will also give teachers the opportunity to update you with any key information and to see and engage with home learning (within reason).

We are currently trialling the new system ‘in school’ by communicating with ‘virtual parents’. The system will then be rolled out to all ‘real’ parents/carers from week beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020. To sign up and to access the system, each parent/carer will receive an email to your school registered email address on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The email may find its way into your clutter or junk folder so keep an eye out for it! The email will provide you with your own unique and secure access code, instructions for next steps and reassurance of data protection compliance, should you wish to join. **Of course, you are not obliged to ‘sign up’ but please note, by accessing and trialling the system, you are**

**giving permission to share your child's photographs/learning etc until you deactivate your account and/or notify the school.**

As you would expect, and in line with our home school agreement, it is important that communication on the system remains positive and I must make it clear that there is no expectation for teachers to give an immediate response during school closure or on our return. Urgent welfare and safeguarding communication between home and school must continue to be through Mrs Leese. I also ask for your support and patience as we 'learn and care together' in this way. I'm sure there will be 'niggles' but nothing that can't be sorted for sure.

In my keeping in touch letter next week, I will be updating you further about our next home learning packs for WC 27.04.20. We are hoping that these will be uploaded to our school website, on our 'home learning' platform, which is currently under development.

Well, that's it from me for this week. Have fun and enjoy the bank holiday weekend as best you can and take time to share, reflect and discuss the importance and relevance of Easter for Christians.

With very best wishes,



Mrs S. Machin  
Principal

