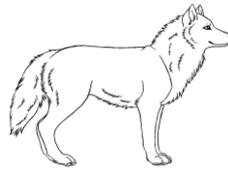


Homework –

Friday 13th March 2020



Miss Farmer



Dear Parent/Carer

It seems very strange to be writing a homework front page about a new virus that is absolutely disrupting the way of life of people all over the world.

As a Headteacher, the issue I have is that there is no certainty about what will change in the next few weeks and what advice will be given – so it is very difficult to forward-plan. We have the situation in Italy where the whole country is in lockdown, but in the UK we are in a ‘wait and see’ period and it seems to me that schools are being discouraged from closing, even if there is evidence of possible illness...I suspect that the government would want all schools to close at the same time if they were to be closed at all – but that is just my guess as, although we know there is plenty of government planning, it doesn’t seem as though that planning is being shared.

We took the decision as a staff last evening, and as a governing body, that all school trips would cease for the foreseeable future. The reason for this is that we want to minimise the possibility of bringing infection into this school. The only exception to this is swimming on a Tuesday. At the same time, staff will not go out of the school to conferences or meetings. All visitors to school will be asked to wash their hands upon entry. I hope that parents support us in this decision.

As a parent as well as a Headteacher, I think that it is a blessing that young people do not seem to be victims of this virus – I think we would all be terrified if our young ones were vulnerable. But it is still an extremely dangerous issue for many of our loved ones – and in itself, pretty unpleasant even if it is ‘mild’. I am sure that everyone is following the handwashing advice – which is to wash hands thoroughly for twenty seconds – and I would guess that people are taking precautions as well as they can. We had an assembly at school about the virus but I limited that to Y4, Y5 and Y6 because I didn’t want younger children to be afraid – so although we do emphasise handwashing (as we always have done) I would hope that parents are also having conversations at home about this.

As a school, we will be encouraging staff to self-isolate if they feel that they might be ill with this virus – and it is clear from talking to staff and parents that we all have a heightened awareness of the situation: I suspect that being aware and being afraid (and thus being careful) will probably help the whole country with this awful issue and that we will all take responsibility for each other through the crisis. I hope that if any parent does feel that they might be ill, they will follow the NHS advice as well as letting school know.

Please use the comment box below to write anything you have to say about the homework or about any other school issues...

Signed:

Please make sure that your child’s medical details and emergency contact numbers are with the office and up-to-date.