

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy. As we face the difficult challenge of responding to COVID-19 our thoughts go out to those affected by this event and we send heartfelt thanks to the healthcare workers, local communities and governments around the world working to contain this unprecedented situation. The most important thing, I am sure I will keep repeating is that we stay positive and supportive as a community.

Who would have guessed that I would be in such demand; first participating in the Easter Sunday Service at HTC and now being interviewed on Surrey BBC Breakfast with James Cannons: thank you all for your positive comments about this; good opportunities to raise our school's profile should not be missed! Thank you to those of you who do the same, championing our school at every opportunity!

Many of you rely on the support network offered through class WhatsApp groups, and there are so many positives particularly at these times. However, some issues have been brought to my attention, which I have been asked to share;

- please can messages be kept to a reasonable amount as some parents are finding the frequency of messages overwhelming
- please be considerate regarding the timings of posts; some are very late, others are very early!
- Please can messages be kept as positive as possible
- when posting successes please bear in mind that some children may be finding the very same task challenging

Staff have asked me to remind you that parents are not able to access the maths worksheets through the WRM website but need to take them from your Classroom. Although we will not be directly setting work on Doodlemaths, CPS has a trial of this until the end of May, which you may wish to use. There's been quite a lot of positivity around this thus far!

We have had many KS1 children exchanging colour-banded books. Due to the quantity and range of Accelerated Reader stock, we cannot find a safe solution to do the same with these books, which is a shame, but we must prioritise everyone's safety.

Oxford Owl have released lots of free e-books:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page>

There's also an online library (It's American but has lots of classics)

<https://openlibrary.org/collections/k-12>

During our upcoming Bank Holiday, there is no expectation for you to continue with home schooling and staff will not be setting work and will be 'off-duty' however if you wish to do something linked to the 75th Anniversary of VE Day or continue with a project, that is entirely up to you!

VIAM update:

'We were hopeful the situation would resolve quickly, and that we could resume operations in a relatively short space of time and stage VIAM2020 before the end of the Summer term and academic year, but as it is now looking as though this is not going to be possible, we therefore have to look at later dates.

This will obviously impact some of your students, as they may be leaving the school at the end of this term; and will not be able to take part in the 20/21 academic year. Clearly our revenue has been severely impacted; and because there isn't a clear understanding of how long we will be in lockdown, we've been forced to make some incredibly painful decisions; particularly in dealing with requests to relax our terms and conditions; and refund those that are unable to attend the re-scheduled date.

Our losses in not staging the events in March, and the choice we made to postpone the event before the lockdown and restrictions came into place, was made at a significant cost to us as a Company. The majority of costs in staging such an event are paid well in advance. So whilst we chose to postpone, as it was the 'safest' option for those attending, it was not a decision made without a great deal of cost.

These are extraordinary times, nobody is immune and nobody could have planned for what we are all going through. However we can plan for the best way out of it; and the best way to resolve all those that are unable to commit to the re-scheduled dates. To that aim, we are installing a section within our online capacity to facilitate the transfer and re-sale of any school places or tickets to those that are attending, including a waiting list of new schools that would like to attend.

I appreciate that this is not a satisfactory solution in many ways; Year 6 will have left after purchasing tickets and without a date we do not know as a school if this will work for our school, for example a new date could clash with Year 5 Residential! We will however keep you abreast of any further updates.

Library Update: We have had 100 responses with some additional suggestions, however as this is only a ¼ of the school I will keep the survey open for another week!

Please do not be tempted to relax the social distancing recommendations, particularly over the Bank Holiday!



Take care and again, please focus on staying safe, create positive memories and protect your whole family's well-being. We know this closure will have an impact on the children's learning and we will be ready to support your children on their return to school.