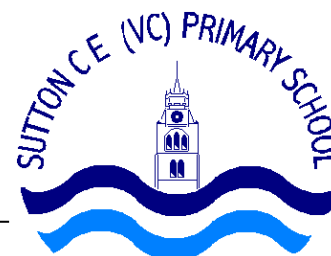


Headteacher Mrs E Gore-Rowe



The Brook
Sutton-in-the-Isle
Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB6 2PU

Wednesday 18th March 2020

Partial School Closure from 19th March 2020 – 3rd April

We would like to thank you for your continued understanding and support over recent weeks whilst we are all faced with the challenging situation of managing the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. Although current Government guidance is to continue to keep schools open, we also have to assess our own school circumstances and whether we have adequate levels of staffing to stay open and keep children safe?

The updated advice from the Government and Local Authority on Monday evening regarding staff with underlying health conditions and/or pregnancy as well as extending self- isolation to family members has had a significant impact on our current staffing levels. We have therefore had to reassess on a daily basis whether we can continue to keep the school open fully, taking in to account the health and safety of both our staff and pupils.

We appreciate that there has been a certain level of anxiety in the community about the announcement on the Council website that we have a partial closure.

Please be reassured that **there are currently no confirmed cases of the virus involving any member of the school community.**

We had already made the decision to combine some classes over the last few days (for example numbers of pupils and staff had been reduced in EYFS and KS1 so we closed one YR class and one KS1 class, combining the remaining pupils – hence the partial closure announcement by the Council.

A letter was drafted to go out to you this morning regarding this, however due to a changing situation, this has been delayed until now.

We have today further reviewed our staffing levels as we have had a further decline in staffing numbers and have therefore had to make the difficult decision to partially close the school from tomorrow, Thursday 19th March – until the end of the Spring term, 3rd April. We will review the Government and LA advice and staffing availability in the Easter holidays and keep you updated as to when we expect to re-open.

We will remain open for the foreseeable future to directly teach Year 2 and Year 6 classes, as well as offering school for children of front-line workers (such as NHS, emergency services, school staff). If staffing capacity allows, we may be able to offer some schooling to some families in exceptional circumstances (such as single parent and/or care workers)

This will be reviewed on a case by case basis if staffing levels allow.

Please be aware that we will also be continuing to monitor our staffing arrangements and reviewing our capacity to maintain this on a daily basis.

HOME LEARNING

Our staff have been working hard to ensure that learning materials are prepared for all pupils who will be at home. So far, we have at least three weeks worth of home learning prepared. This will be communicated to you via dojo and the school website on a daily basis.

We will ask all children whose parents have access to Class Dojo to 'register' via message to let us know they are engaging with home learning.

Teachers will communicate with pupils and parents via Class Dojo on a daily basis so if you have any questions or queries please get in touch. Pupils will be able to complete their learning and upload it for class teachers to assess on a daily basis. A massive well done to all those in self isolation who are already doing this – it has been really successful for many families.

Children have already taken an exercise book to record what they do at home, as well as extra reading books. We will be arranging for the Library to be open to all children and parents by appointment only, in order to ensure that this is limited in small numbers and therefore safe. This will be maintained for as long as we are able to do so and we will send a letter home about this later in the week, letting you know how you can book a slot.

We have very dedicated, hardworking staff, teaching and non-teaching, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for taking everything in their stride and continuing to do the best they can for our children. Every staff member will be continuing to work hard throughout this difficult time – including those staff who are working at home.

It's a difficult time for everyone and not something that will resolve speedily but we will keep in touch with you all electronically as far as possible. The school office will continue to be manned for the foreseeable future so you will be able to contact us in this way also.

Mrs Emily Gore-Rowe
Headteacher

Mrs Sue Rudge & Mrs Hilary Sanderson
Co-Chairs of Governors