Dear Families,

I have tried hard to contact as many families as possible this week and have only a handful from Nursery yet to try to speak to. Other staff are going to making contact in the future and it is very important to have up to date phone numbers. I have left a message with anyone whom I haven’t been able to contact, and Mrs Crisp has then tried to contact with a follow up call. If you have received neither can you please email [office@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk) to check your records please?

It has been great to speak to so many families this week and it is pleasing to hear that the children are safe and families are making the most of the situation. The positive comments about the phone calls have led me to ask other staff to call too as they are keen and families have said they appreciate it. Some of the activities you have been doing alongside the home learning has been brilliant and it is great to hear what the children are doing.

Currently there are no further updates to share regarding reopening, we are still officially closed and have no children coming into school. There is a myriad of options for reopening the school in the future and we will know more next week. However, adhering to social distancing measures will mean the whole school opening as normal might be a challenge. Nevertheless, the school is open Monday morning for a book swap (for parents of children who are using the numbered boxes) and I will be there with Mrs Rodbard – all of us socially distancing of course.

We had a Full Governing Meeting last week online and agreed our 2020-21 budget. Immediately afterwards I met (virtually using a different format) with Bottisham Village College and other heads this week regarding transition for Year Six. There are a variety of plans for a range of possibilities dependent upon what is decided in the next few weeks but Year Six parents should be receiving a pack of information in the next couple of days, including a link to an online form to be completed by 15th May. The school leaders understand that children may be anxious and that uniform could be an issue but have plans to address this. They are also considering hosting their transition evening virtually and asking BVC students to construct a virtual tour so lots is going on behind the scenes.

Over the past few weeks I have been incredibly impressed by the togetherness of our community. Hilary Burton is a volunteer coordinator for the area and has had donations of food collected for families who may be in need. If you are finding it difficult to get food can you please get in contact with her ([hb384@cam.ac.uk](mailto:hb384@cam.ac.uk)) by Wednesday. Her team will then divide the current stores. This is a superb effort and along with the Little Wilbraham charity (the Johnson-Bede-Lane trust <http://www.jbltrust.co.uk/>) and the county links in the appendices below there is support out there if you need it.

Lastly,the following film summarises how all the staff feel at the moment. We miss you all and look forward to seeing you at some point. <https://vimeo.com/412655924?ref=em-share>

Richard Brown

Headteacher

**Previous information sent to us from the county to pass onto you:**

**Children left at home on their own**

There is national guidance for parents in the document - [Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers](file:///C:\Windows\ie\TempInt\cy281\Content.Outlook\0E8B3BYK\0F7301C1-350B-4A79-BED9-9717826DF2B0.WAV). It provides government advice on the law on leaving children unattended. There is no law about when a parent can leave your child on their own but it is an offence to leave them alone if it places them at risk. Parents should use their judgement on how mature their child is before they decide to leave them at home.

Parents can be prosecuted if they leave a child alone ‘in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health’. The NSPCC recommends that children under 12 are rarely mature enough to be left alone for a long period of time, children under 16 should not be left alone overnight and babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone.

**Children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing**

The DfE has published on [updated guidance on school closures](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing).  All NHS mental health trusts are setting up 24/7 helplines, and seeking to use digital and virtual channels, to continue delivering support during the pandemic.  Social connections, alongside exercise, sleep, diet and routine are important protective factors for mental health. Resources to promote and support mental wellbeing are included in the [list of online resources](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education/) DfE has published to help children to learn at home. Public Health England has also published [guidance on supporting children and young people’s mental health](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing).

Digital support includes:

·         [Minded educational resources](https://www.minded.org.uk/) for adults about children and young people’s mental health, which is relevant for teachers, other professionals working with children, volunteers, parents and carers

·         the [Every Mind Matters platform](https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/), from Public Health England, about looking after your mental health

·         [Rise Above](https://riseabove.org.uk/), targeted at young people, which also has [schools-facing lesson plans](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools/topics/rise-above/overview)

**Scams**

There have been reports of calls from somebody claiming to be from Public Health England, asking residents if they had received their letter from the government and then asking if they have support from family and friends, etc. and trying to obtain personal details – please remind people to be vigilant around sharing details.

<https://theictservice.org.uk/service/online-safety-advice-for-parents-during-school-closures/?utm_source=The+ICT+Service&utm_campaign=2d10493553-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_02_02_57&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2d66a93e78-2d10493553-40627091>

**Online safety**

Whilst the school is closed and children are using online learning more I thought it was pertinent to send this link which provides advice for families about online learning. Families may be concerned over cyber-bullying and this link provides good advice for monitoring what your children send and receive and the permissions they have.

<https://theictservice.org.uk/service/online-safety-advice-for-parents-during-school-closures/?utm_source=The+ICT+Service&utm_campaign=2d10493553-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_02_02_57&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2d66a93e78-2d10493553-40627091>

**Early Years Key Worker provision**

Schools, childminders and early years settings across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough remain open and are working hard to look after those children deemed vulnerable, and those of key workers. A dedicated team is now on hand to signpost parents to available options, including childcare provided by nurseries and childminders. If you are a critical worker and in need of childcare support, please contact the Family Information Service on:

* Cambridgeshire – 0345 045 1360
* Peterborough – 01733 864446 or visit the [website](http://tracking.vuelio.co.uk/tracking/click?d=4OJ77GeXt8dF3YkX1w87bWzakDcZ0wLOYI3dchCHPufDuIWyaJR4o6gcjl1F08ZuzUjjP5jMHCKFfaUsnZ055ZtY3X9kIULeBn0U9a2M47nJW2njnDditfqzA50yuHCBsYYAp9q7heeOLtcBuj0ku-bgttAnQgGZ_Wf6MTk8rz3127QAvpeibdlcO15GLwKknAJzwq53oA1q_ITyUMzP-RM1)

**Primary Pupil Key Worker provision**

We have not had any children in school since Wednesday 25th April but know that circumstances change. Please contact us to help facilitate provision whether in our school or more likely in another but please remember that the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open **only for those children who absolutely** need to attend.

**Supporting vulnerable people and families**

In these very challenging times, all schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are working closely with colleagues in Local Authorities to ensure families that are vulnerable or need additional support receive the help they need.

A network of COVID-19 Coordination and Response Hubs have been established, comprising a countywide hub and local hubs led by District/City Councils. The hubs are focussed on providing local support, coordinating community led initiatives, supporting residents, and responding to individual offers of help or requests for support including access to food banks.

The contact detail for our local hub can be found here:  
South Cambridgeshire:[www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/)  
Monday to Friday 08:00-17:30 / [Duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk) / 03450 455 218