



# Kea Community Primary School

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21 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## **School closure update**

When we came back to school after the Christmas holidays, none of us could have imagined the changes that would happen to all of us within such a short space of time.

As you are aware, staff have been working hard to put in place systems to support children with home learning for the coming weeks. In the first instance, we have tried to keep things relatively straight forward and easy to manage – with daily learning plans uploaded to our website. Although we will be reviewing systems regularly, we are keen not to put things in place that might be difficult to maintain in the case of staff illness.

I know that many of you will be feeling extremely anxious that your child may not make much progress with their learning this summer. This will be the case for every child in the country (and likely throughout the whole world) – and when things return to normal, staff in schools everywhere will be doing all they can to enable children to catch up on missed learning.

Bear in mind that current national curriculum expectations in primary schools are significantly higher than they were a few years ago. Outcomes for pupils leaving primary school used to be far lower – 10 years ago, 20 years ago – even 40 years ago when I was at primary school – but this didn't stop people from achieving success.

In times like this, I believe that it is key skills such as resourcefulness (managing and making do with less), resilience (keeping going when things are difficult), the ability to bring a smile to others and kindness which will enable people to succeed – far more than fronted adverbials and subordinate clauses (Y6 grammar).

I know that many of you have been sharing tips for home learning and many website links with each other. Try not to feel overwhelmed by the number of materials and support packages on offer. Simple things such as teaching your child to sew on a button or to make a loaf of bread from scratch, spending time watching nature in your garden or writing and posting a card or letter to a relative or neighbour who is in self-isolation – will all be things that will be useful to your children in life.

We will keep communicating with you from school, but please bear in mind that we will be operating with a skeleton staff structure, even in the school office – so we may not be able to respond to any queries and concerns as quickly as usual.

Finally, I would like to thank you so much for all your support, understanding and kindness over the past week. This has been an incredibly challenging time for all of the school staff – but made so much easier by the kind words and messages from parents and carers.

Best wishes  
Yours sincerely

Katherine Hunkin  
Headteacher