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A message on the importance of Social Distancing outside of school.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, can I say thank you for how adaptable, conscientious and amazing you - and your children - have been since we returned to school in January. It was a very last minute decision by the government to significantly reduce the numbers of children in schools, but your children, and our staff, have worked hard to ensure that learning has not been lost and that the children and staff in-school are safe.

Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that some children are having play-dates and gatherings in their homes contrary to both current social-distancing rules.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing/coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing>

While school cannot police what families and children do in their own space and time, I would remind everyone that the coronavirus has not gone away and that, for certain people in our community, if they contract it, the resultant COVID-19 illness could be fatal.

Some, who are sending children into school, are doing so because of the safety assurances we give about how we control the groups we have, including restricting children's and staff interactions. Children within the in-school groups are expected to not only follow the rules in school but everywhere else as, to breach them, invites the chance of there being an outbreak of the virus in school, for contagion to spread in our wider community and for someone, somewhere to fall seriously ill.

I am asking all parents and carers to ensure that they are compliant with the social distancing measures in force at any time. If families feel that they cannot comply with the social distancing requirements of wider life, I would ask that - for now - they do not take up in-school places.

Instead, they should revert to home learning using the material that is posted daily on Tapestry (EYFS) and Google Classroom. We cannot afford to risk the welfare and well-being of anyone coming into school and their wider families at home.

Ultimately, Coronavirus is an unwelcome guest in our lives but one that is likely to remain with us for quite some time. It is therefore important that we continue to make the right choices for our school, our families and our community and follow social distancing guidelines both in school and at home.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to this effort.

Kind Regards

Mrs Chadburn