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Dear parents and carers

Coronavirus update

It feels very strange to be in school today with very few students, but I am grateful to all of you who have managed to make alternative arrangements for your children. We are monitoring the situation carefully as the national picture changes, and we will send out further information as we have it.

I know there have been a few hiccups this morning with access to some of the work on the website; hopefully this is sorted out now, please keep checking online! There should be enough work to last until the end of the Easter break, after which we will review the situation and see how best to go forward. Reading is always important, and there is plenty of relevant work on BBC Bitesize for both key stages. Staff may be able to mark some work and return it, but at the moment we are all taking tentative steps with a new way of working which we may have to sustain for a long time, so please bear with us.

IF you are a key worker who has no alternative but to leave your child with us, please note the following new points:

- Children should come to school wearing comfortable clothes that could get dirty /messy (not uniform) and allow them to be active eg playing table tennis or keep fit
- **Children need to bring a packed lunch.** AiP will not be serving food on site.
- You **must** ensure that we have an emergency number for someone who can pick your child up if they become unwell and you are at work
- We would normally expect to see ONLY children in Years 7 & 8. Students in Year 9 upwards should be old enough to be left at home and we are keen to ensure that as few people as possible are in school, as per the government guidelines. If this creates difficulties for you, please get in touch.

Whilst the school is closed we will be systematically deep cleaning all areas and closing them off so that we can limit the spread of any contamination as much as possible.

Finally, please encourage your child to keep themselves, their friends and families safe. The best way to do this is by NOT meeting together in groups, either outside or at someone's house. The quickest way for us all to be able to get back to normal is by following the government advice, be strict about hygiene and keep up 'social distancing'. This is a good time to stay in touch with people by making more use of phones or other devices to FaceTime, Skype, message or talk...

Students can be sure that this is the **only** time they will hear me recommend them spending **more** time on their phones, so make the most of it!

Best wishes

Sue Gaston