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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

As we come to the end of another week of school closures, I wanted to thank you again for all you are doing at home to continue the education of your child/ren. I understand how challenging this will be at times but encourage you to try and do a little each day, especially English and maths, as this will make such a difference when the children return to school.

However, had the school been open as normal, next week would have been half term. After so many weeks working so hard, it is important that everyone takes time to rest and enjoy being together as a family, just as you would have done normally during a school holiday. This means that the current work packs provided will also be for the two weeks after half term (until Friday 12th June). Another four-week work pack will then be provided, if required, on Monday 15th June.

School remains open during half term for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers who require childcare.

SCHOOL REOPENING PLANS

You will be aware of the government's direction to schools to begin preparing to welcome pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back to school from Monday 1st June, as well as providing childcare for the children of key workers, whose employment is crucial to the COVID-19 response.

You will have received a letter from the Local Authority this week informing you that each school is already in the process of preparation and planning, following a risk assessment-based approach. You will also receive a letter from all KCP headteachers today detailing our collective thoughts about reopening schools on 1st June.

As you will appreciate, safety must be the most important factor for schools when deciding when and how to open. School governors and staff are working closely with the Local Authority and following advice from the Department for Education, Public Health England and other partners to assess the control measures that need to be put in place to enable the school and its activities to operate as safely as possible.

During this unprecedented time, government guidance is subject to change very quickly and plans are developing as the days progress. You will appreciate that this presents difficulties in communicating the school's plans with parents and the wider community. However, please be assured that the school and the governors are working hard to achieve a way forward that is as safe as possible for the pupils and staff.





The Governing Body met on Thursday last week and, after careful consideration of all the evidence, made the decision that the school will continue to be open for vulnerable pupils and key worker childcare but **will not open for any other year groups until at least 15th June**. In the meantime, governors and staff will continue to prepare for wider opening but will be mindful of the local and national position before making any further decisions.

However, it is important for you to understand that if and when the school reopens, it will look and feel very different to what the children (and staff) are used to. Children will not be taught in their normal class groups and will probably not be with their normal class teacher. They may not be in their normal classroom or even in their usual building. This is because we are having to accommodate groups of no more than 15, and less in some cases where the classrooms are too small to accommodate social distancing. There will be clear routines that include much handwashing during the day. Classes will not be permitted to mix with each other at all during the school day. There are extensive measures that have to be put in place in order that the school can operate as safely as possible. This careful and thorough planning takes time and attention to detail.

I will write again in the next weeks with more information. I will then ask to you to consider the information and make a firm decision regarding whether your child will be returning to school when we reopen. Only then can I confirm the exact arrangements for your child when the operational plan is confirmed and approved.

I hope this has helped you to understand some of the challenges facing schools currently, in order to operate as safely as possible once we welcome pupils back to Castle Park again. I ask that you remain patient as the governors and school staff ensure we can reopen, with the confidence that the school is as safe as it can be for your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H F Richardson
Headteacher

