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Monday 23 March 2020

Dear parents,

I must begin this briefing by once again stating how delighted I am to have received such supportive emails and messages from parents; they are certainly helping to keep us buoyant. I would like to extend my personal thanks to our dedicated staff who are being so flexible and positive. We are all proud to be supporting the community in this way. Even though school looks a very different environment today, the children who are attending are all cared for and safe.

A huge thank you to Pizza Express who are closing this evening but who decided to bake a number of pizzas for our teachers – what a lovely gesture.

### **Staying at Home**

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. I have taken the following wording from the government's most recent update:

*"Children with a parent or carer who is listed on the government's critical worker list should be considered for a school place, so long as their job cannot be done from home. Many parents working in these sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading."*

Thank you to those parents who are key workers but have arranged alternative childcare so that the social distancing strategy can be effective. If we have a large number of children at school, we are not adhering to social distancing requirements, which will affect all of us.



## **Children Working at Home**

It seems that all learning platforms went into meltdown today with large numbers of children accessing the sites at the same time. Hopefully the demand will settle, and DB Primary have apologised to us for the reduced service. The first port of call is the school website 'Childrens Zone.' This has instructions about how to log on. Please be patient while we distribute the passwords as this is quite a task, and may still take a little time to complete! Mrs Purkiss has been working hard to make the website page as easy to follow and navigate as possible.

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support. Please keep the school staff and pupils in your prayers as we dedicate our school prayers to our families and community.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr P O'Rourke  
*Headteacher*