



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this email finds you and your family safe and well. It has been a steep learning curve for us all over the last two weeks and we are looking forward to some sort of rest over the next couple of weeks for the Easter break. We will continue to keep school open to support the children of key workers or any other extremely vulnerable learners. This will include Bank Holiday provision if required too. Otherwise, we have instructed staff to switch off and enjoy the break as best as possible from the comfort of their lounge or garden/balcony! We do believe it is really important for the children and for you as parents to have a break from schoolwork too. We recently heard someone describing the situation as parents 'home schooling'. However, home schooling is a choice and none of you were given that. You were forced into this current unfortunate circumstance and we would like to say you are all doing amazingly well considering. Many of us have our own insecurities about education, probably from our own school experiences. Please be kind to yourselves. We know even the teachers who claim to be the experts are struggling somewhat to motivate their own children through home learning! It is tough!

There is holiday project work available should you wish your child to engage in something meaningful over the next two weeks. However, teachers and support staff will largely not be available to respond until after the Easter holidays. If you or your child has an urgent safeguarding concern or question and you need to speak with us, please do email the [talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk) or [talk2us@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:talk2us@willingdonschool.org.uk) and we will be in touch within one working day.

Can we also request that whilst we remain in this situation, parents do not Edulink /email Mrs Lisa Manning who sends out our Edulink information? Any questions or queries need to go through the channels of Tutors or Pastoral Support Assistants, or the emails listed above.

We are due to receive clarity today about Year 11 and examination results. Please do bear with us as the government have brilliant timing here of releasing the brief the day before the holiday. We will need time to digest the decisions they have made and fully understand what is expected of schools in helping to determine grades which should be rewarded. We absolutely appreciate what an anxious time this will be for Year 11 but please reassure them, we want the best for all. We must not rush this process and ensure decisions made are evidence based.

Thank you again for so many positive messages of support. Staff have been reduced to tears of happiness from the wonderful comments you have given us. Our support and teaching staff do go the extra mile and whilst we don't always get everything right, we all try our hardest to put your children at the forefront of every action and decision we take. Have a lovely Easter break and we will be in touch the first week back. Finally, in the words of Winnie the Pooh:

"Pooh!" he whispered

"Yes, Piglet?"

"Nothing," said Piglet, taking Pooh's paw. "I just wanted to be sure of you."

This signifies to us how we have all rediscovered how important the people in our lives are. You are all our Willingdon family and we wish you the best over the next few weeks.

Best wishes

Ms Beer

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