



20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

To our Sandgate Primary family,

It is with a feeling of genuine sadness that we are saying goodbye (for now) to so many of you today.

Our school community is amazing and the number of messages offering support and encouragement is testament to this. I am sorry that we have not been able to reply to everyone individually but please do not underestimate how welcome your kind words have been to all staff – thank you.

Over the coming weeks, we will be planning for how we can maintain that community spirit whilst school is suspended and I know that many of you also have your own ideas about how this might be done.

On a practical note, we will be uploading our first set of year group learning packs to the school website today – you will find them by clicking on the parent tab at the top of the page. These will be updated every Friday.

On Monday, we will begin the process of moving all of our reading books to the Community Room to enable books to still be changed whilst the school remains closed. This will be another way for the children to remain involved with the school. We will message you all when the system is set up along with details about how AR quizzes can be taken at home.

The school may be closed to most pupils for now but we are not shut; it is still your school whether your child is currently attending or not. There will be staff on the end of the phone (social distancing measures still apply!) to answer questions, provide technical help but most importantly for a chat if you need it.

When we do return – possibly before the end of the academic year – let us hope that it's as part of a society which has learned the lesson that only by working together, looking out for one another and valuing the part that everyone plays within it, can we overcome the greatest challenges we face.

I wish you all well.

*Matt*