20 March 2020 Dear parents and carers,

After spending the last two days making arrangements for the school to remain open to a small number of children next week, I sit here wondering how on earth to put into words the last few days.

On Monday, our Year 6 pupils sat a mock Grammar and Punctuation SATs test and all seemed right with the world. By Tuesday, several members of staff had been sent home as a precaution and many of our pupils had to do the same. By Wednesday, the Prime Minister had informed the nation that all schools were closing for the foreseeable future. By Thursday there was an eerie quiet throughout school and the corridors and classrooms had lost that buzz of excitement and chatter.

Which brings us to today – no celebration assembly, no Nursery children popping up to show me their latest junk models, no pupils sneaking past the office on their way to borrow a spare PE kit!

None of us have ever experienced anything like this in our lifetimes. I’m aware some of my words in a previous letter were taken out of context, but I meant every word. *Resilience* is the ability to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions. *Every* pupil, *without exception*, has shown their resilience in a way that I cannot help but admire. Our assemblies were cancelled, lunchtimes were staggered to prevent children being seated too closely together, after-school clubs were postponed, their class sizes and staff numbers fell dramatically and on top of all this we all had to wash and sanitise our hands several hundred times a day! Not one child has complained or reacted negatively; they have remained calm and sensible and handled this unprecedented situation better than we could ever have expected.

I would like nothing more than to sign off with a definitive date of when we will all re-join school together, but sadly this is not the case. We will keep you updated as much as we can, and we look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Look after yourselves.



Miss Lodge

Headteacher