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Dear Parent/Carer,

What a strange day! I hope that you and your children have had a good 'Day 1' together and that those of you who tried, managed to access the on-line learning that you needed. On that note I would like to say that we put that there to help you. We aren't expecting you to teach your children – if you come up against something that is just causing stress and more pressure at an already fraught time then just leave it and move on. Obviously, we would love it if as many children as possible were able to access the resources that their teachers put together for them but we have given it to you as an opportunity rather than an expectation. Teachers will not be checking on or chasing up children who have not completed tasks. The most important thing is that your households remain calm and happy.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you for being so understanding of our need to limit the number of children who we can give emergency childcare places to. Getting the further clarity over the weekend as England's Education Secretary Gavin Williamson told parents: "If your work is not critical in the response to coronavirus then please keep your child at home," has reinforced the importance of keeping your children and our teachers, as well as ultimately the wider community, as protected as possible. Thanks go as well to those of you for whom school really is the only safe place that you can leave your child – the fact that you are trying to rearrange shifts and use us as little as possible is very much appreciated. Today we only had ten children in school. It is fabulous to be a head teacher of such a generous and selfless school community.

Those of you whose children are entitled to Free School Meals and who have spoken to school about picking up a hamper of food will be getting phone calls tomorrow to let you know when to come and pick them up on Wednesday. We will be very careful to ensure the '2 metre' rule, and to stagger pick-up times so as to limit the threat of any virus spreading. On the same note, if you fall into hardship and find that you are unable to afford to buy the basics then please let school know. We are able to issue vouchers that will enable you to pick up a parcel from the food bank.

I intend to stay in touch with weekly updates – if I have nothing to say then they will be very short – but I think that some communication is better than none.

Take care of each other and I'll see you on the other side!

Tina Clarke