



WEST BOROUGH
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mrs Ashley Crittenden BEd Hons NPQH

Friday 2nd March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Following my decision this week to keep the school open, and after hearing about the very mixed response from parents/carers on social media, I felt it important to clarify my reasons for doing so.

Both the Government and Kent County Council urge schools to remain open as closures have a knock on effect on parents/carers ability to go to work. Many of our families work in other areas of the public sector, e.g. Health Services or the emergency services. We also have many parents who work in shops and supermarkets that need to remain open. Furthermore, I'm also aware that many parents don't get paid if they don't work. The school has received many compliments from these parents who have been able to go to work this week, thank you.

I have been in constant contact with the Chair of Governors, Tim Barker, who has fully supported my decision to remain open.

The decision as to whether or not it is safe to bring your child to school lies solely with you, the parent. At no point has the school demanded children are brought to school. As a school we take regular attendance very seriously, however, we would never ask you put your child at risk in these extreme and unusual conditions. Parents who've not brought their child to school this week will not be penalised.

I'd also like to remind parents that, as members of the school community you should understand that the use of technology (including social networking) to deliberately threaten, upset, harass, intimidate, chastise or embarrass someone else could be considered to be cyberbullying or harassment. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as bullying in the real world and is not tolerated at West Borough Primary School. West Borough Primary School take all instances of cyberbullying or harassment involving any members of our community very seriously as we want members of the community to feel safe and happy both on and offline.

I would finally like to say a huge thank you to the amazing and dedicated staff at West Borough who have come in to ensure the school can remain open. Apart from Wednesday, we've had almost a full complement of staff, many of whom have walked great distances or car shared. Your efforts are very much appreciated by myself, the Governors and the majority of our parents.

Please be aware, that depending on the weekend weather, the carpark/drop-off zone may still be out of bounds next week. Let's hope next week brings warmer and dryer conditions!

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Crittenden
Headteacher

Cc Tim Barker – Chair of Governors