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SCHOOL CLOSURE – PARENT/CARER UPDATE 24.4.20

Dear Parent/Carer,

Another week in lockdown… I hope you are well and safe and that you are finding my weekly updates useful.

Government Updates
The Education Secretary led the government briefing earlier this week. He said he "cannot give a date" for when schools in England may reopen. Gavin Williamson said: "Of course, I want nothing more than to see schools back, get them back to normal, make sure the children are sat around, learning, and experiencing the joy of being at school. But I can't give you a date… Because before we do, we need to meet five tests."

The government's five tests are:

- ensuring the NHS can cope when restrictions are lifted
- a reduction in daily death rates
- reliable data which shows the rate of infection decreasing to manageable levels
- testing capacity and PPE able to meet current and future demand
- ensure changes will not risk a second peak of infections

In addition, during Wednesday's government briefing, Chris Whitty, the chief medical officer for England, stated that social distancing is likely to be needed until a vaccine is available and that some very 'socially disruptive' measures would almost certainly have to remain in force for the rest of the year. Therefore, although as a school we are trying to plan ahead to when school 're-opens', we cannot attempt to plan the details of what this will look like until we have more government advice.

Home Learning
Another huge thank you to you all for supporting your children with their home learning. Please do what feels right for you and your children. We will support you in any way we can… If you have any issues or questions regarding the online work set, please contact your child's class teacher via the blog or by sending an email to office@lostock.bolton.sch.uk.

Mrs Sowden's and Mrs Frimu's Maternity Leave
Mrs Sowden is expected to finish for maternity leave on Thursday 11th June (this may be subject to change). Mrs Sowden is well and is continuing to set work on the blog from home. Mrs Frimu returns from maternity leave at the end of April. She will be supporting learning across the school and will officially 'take over' as Year 5 class teacher when Mrs Sowden starts maternity leave. She will be the Year 5 class teacher until the end of the Summer Term.

Safeguarding and Child Protection Reminder
Please see the Department for Education guidance for details of what to do if you have a concern about a child's safety and please also see our addendum to our Safeguarding Policy during these times. Both can be found on the school website: Parents/Carers – Coronavirus updates – Safeguarding.

Please take care, follow the government guidelines and stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

Vicki Guest
Headteacher