Monday 4th January

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to you all; parents, carers, governors, teachers and other members of the community at yet another period of uncertainty. Yet again, our community faces another challenge to our way of life. As I am sure you are now aware, the Government has announced that **all schools will close from tomorrow for most children. As is always the case in these situations, we only heard about this on the news at the same time that the whole country did. Up until that moment, we were fully prepared to open fully to all children**

Therefore, in consultation with the Governors, I have taken the difficult decision to **keep the school closed to all children tomorrow**. I fully appreciate the potential disruption this may cause for families and I have not made this decision lightly but due to the timing of the announcement, we simply do not have time to prepare and gather together all of the critical worker information, create registers and distribute equipment before tomorrow morning. We will therefore spend the day tomorrow collating all that information and we will reopen for critical workers and vulnerable children on **Wednesday 6th January 2020.**

The guidance for the children of critical workers was updated on December the 31st 2020. If you are not sure if your work is included in this, please visit the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website where the document ***‘Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings’*** details all the roles included. As with the initial lockdown in March 2020, **to keep everyone as safe as possible and protect those working in the NHS, if one parent/carer is working from home then the expectation is that your child will stay at home. The provision is there for those critical workers who have no other alternative.** Vulnerable children will be contacted by Miss Hobbs or Mrs Williams tomorrow to discuss arrangements.

Children who do not fall into the category of ‘Critical Workers’ or ‘Vulnerable’ will need to stay at home with alternative arrangements. We will be setting work remotely using school website and a separate letter about this will follow tomorrow. This will be emailed to all parents and posted on the school website. All online learning will be ready to fully access from Wednesday 6th January 2021, including a daily zoom lesson for all children.On Tuesday 5th January 2021 work can be accessed on the school website. All children have their own login details for our online portals. Please contact the school tomorrow via email, if these have been misplaced.

If you believe you are a key worker, please email the school office tomorrow outlining your job title and company you work for along with any proof of critical worker status. It may be necessary for school staff to contact your employer to confirm this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who have worked diligently over the last few days, getting ready to welcome children back for face-to face teaching in the safest possible way. On behalf of the whole school community, I would also like to thank those parents and carers working on the front line who are working incredibly hard to keep us all safe.

I am sure you will appreciate that over the next 24 hours, we will be busy planning for the next few weeks ahead. Therefore, please only contact the office by telephone if it is absolutely necessary or if you have been asked to as a critical worker. All correspondence should be via email. This will help us to focus on the essential jobs we have to undertake.

I don’t think any of us underestimate the challenges that lie ahead this term but our focus will always be to put the health and safety of all our children, staff and community at the heart of the decisions we make.

Stay safe

Mrs R.Williams

Headteacher