

Nene Way St. Ives, Cambs. PE27 3WF Phone: 01480 466919 Fax: 01480 498248 www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk



Mrs Theresa Thornton Headteacher Mrs Emma Verney-Davies Deputy Headteacher Mrs Gemma Edwards Assistant Headteacher

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers, Colleagues and Governors

As I am sure you are aware, yesterday the Government announced all schools will be closed from Monday 23rd March until further notice. This means that for the majority of our children Friday will be their last day in school for what could be a considerable period of time.

There is no precedent in our lifetimes for the measures we are now required to take. In this time of national emergency, I hope you can understand and support the actions we are taking as a Wheatfields family to do our part in helping our country tackle Coronavirus and the significant impact it is having upon us.

The Government has confirmed that for the foreseeable future, all schools have been asked to provide care for children of key workers, therefore enabling them to remain at work during this period of need. At the moment, we are not sure exactly who this will be but we are receiving updates from the Government and the Local Authority daily and should receive more clarification soon. Yesterday key workers were defined by the local Authority as health professionals, police, fire, ambulance, teachers and social workers. Schools are hoping that this also includes support staff.

We have also been asked to ensure those children with Education Care & Health Plans or who are more vulnerable are also provided for. Wheatfields will be part of a country wide response to ensure we meet our duties.

If children do not fall into one of the categories above, this will undoubtedly be a difficult period. Their teachers have been putting together education packs, resources and activities for them to complete. The BBC is putting together daily education shows on the Red button and on iPlayer. We will also provide a wide range of sources for information and learning for you on our school website <u>www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk</u> We will share information with you on where to find work specific to your child(ren) as soon as we can.

I wish to thank all school staff, volunteers, and Governors who have helped in recent days to keep Wheatfields open and who will continue to do so over the coming months. They are unwavering in their commitment to our children and our values of Resourcefulness, Reciprocity, Resilience, Reflectiveness and Respect.

I will send another update when I have more information. In the meantime thank you for your support and understanding in these difficult times. With best wishes,

Theresa Thornton Headteacher













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