

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

## UPDATE – COVID-19 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020

Firstly, thank you for your patience and allowing us the opportunity to digest the recently published information which will impact our School, our families and the wider community.

Since the PM's initial announcement on Sunday evening, we have been gathering further information and taking advice and guidance about phased re-opening and what that will look like for us as a School.

Currently the school remains accessible to vulnerable children and children of key worker parents, regardless of year group. At this next stage, we are being asked to consider how we can open safely for children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1st June. As you will be aware, this will only be if the Government can ensure that the 5 tests have been passed with regards to limiting the COVID-19 risk, and only if we can ensure the safety of the children and staff in our setting.

We have received guidance from the DfE on measures we need to take to make school as safe as we can. We cannot say for certain at this time what the details of school provision will look like on 1<sup>st</sup> June; there are challenges to overcome and questions still to be answered. To help us plan provision, and support us in understanding the steps we need to take in organising safe staffing levels and spaces for the numbers of children in school, **we need all Parents and Carers of children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 complete an online survey.** The survey link will be sent to qualifying parents and carers this afternoon, and **will be open until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May at midday**. Once we have this information we can communicate with parents what School will look like on 1<sup>st</sup> June if the Government decide that we are to re-open.

I understand that many of you will have your own views on whether or not this is the right time to start re-opening schools and that this may affect your decision on whether or not to send your child back. We respect your views and will not be insisting on your child's attendance if you would prefer to keep them at home. This will remain the case until the Government reintroduces its attendance requirements.

We know that it is the Government's hope that all primary aged children will be able to come back into school for at least some time before the summer holiday. As the PM has reiterated, this too is conditional on the successful completion of the other phases and further passing of the 5 tests prior to July, and so we will be in touch with families closer to this time when informed decisions can be made.













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In the meantime, staff will continue to set Home Learning tasks for pupils, which is available on the School's Website, and will continue to do this for year groups not in school and those who choose to keep their children at home. Thank you for sharing work that your children have done at home with your class teacher(s). It is great to see so many children engaged in the tasks that staff have worked hard in preparing, and really does give us a boost if we are having a tough day!

The Staff at Wheatfields have made a video for you and the children to let you know we are thinking of you at this time which can be found <u>here.</u> Many thanks to Miss Parkinson for putting this together. We hope you enjoy!

Thank you for your continued support of our School and Community during this challenging period.

Kind Regards,

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Mrs Theresa Thornton & Mrs Emma Verney-Davies Headteacher & Deputy Headteacher

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Mrs Lisa Ling & Mr Andy Moffat Co-Chairs of Governors











