



Nene Way
St. Ives, Cambs.
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www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk



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

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Events are moving quickly with regard to the coronavirus pandemic and we are keeping the situation under review.

At the moment, we are keeping the school open, but should we have increasing staff absences, we may have to announce a school closure because we would not be able to keep children safe. We will give parents as much notice as possible, but this may be less than 24 hours. We will use our school website and email parents if we do have to close.

In the event of a closure, teachers will post work for children to do on the class pages of our school website. The teachers have thought carefully about the types of work that children can do at home without much adult support and will be posting work that most children will be capable of completing largely independently. There may be some tasks that you can do with your child if possible. We hope that you will support us to keep up the education of your child by encouraging your child to complete as much as they can. If you cannot access the school website, please let us know as soon as possible.

If the school closes, please use the 'office@' address as usual should you need to get in touch with your child's class teacher. If a teacher becomes ill themselves, or needs to look after an ill dependent, they will be 'absent' and will not be able to respond to questions.

A number of children were absent from our school yesterday and today for various reasons, so I feel it would be helpful to clarify the advice about attendance.

All children should attend school unless

- They have the symptoms of coronavirus – a new persistent cough or fever (high temperature)
- There is someone in the household who has the symptoms of coronavirus
- They are ill for some other reason
- They have another acceptable reason for absence

If your child or another member of the household has the symptoms of coronavirus, Government advice is that all members of the household self-isolate for 14 days. This means all the children in the household should not come to school. Please let us know if that is the case so that we can mark your child's absence in the register with the right code.

If your child is ill for some other reason, eg. sickness bug, diarrhoea, they should stay at home for 48 hours after the last bout of illness, but may then return to school.

Please let us know the reason for your child's absence. If you are not sure whether or not your child or another member of your household has symptoms of coronavirus, please consult the NHS 111 online service for more information.

In addition, the Government has also advised the public to avoid social gatherings and practise social distancing. For this reason, we regret that we will not be able to invite parents, carers and relatives to Class





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3 assembly tomorrow morning. We plan to video it once we have permission from parents of the children concerned and put the video on the school website for you to watch. Please look at www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk . Please also note that Year 4 Viking day has been cancelled, the Year 6 Airbus trip has been postponed and all parent lunches have been cancelled from today. Further events may be cancelled but we will keep you informed of developments.

We do also have some staff absences which will put additional pressure on our ability to carry out our normal service. Please bear with us over the next few weeks as we find other ways to resolve difficulties.

Kind regards,

Theresa Thornton
Headteacher



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