



Harwell Community Primary School

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4/1/21

Dear Parents,

I want to start by wishing you a very Happy New Year!

2020 was not a year that many of us would have wanted. However, despite the challenges and sadness that the year brought, I believe that there were many positives too. It is always important to think about the positives that any challenges can bring. This week's timely assembly theme expanded on that idea.

However, despite our best efforts to keep the school as safe as possible, It is with a heavy heart, that I must let you know, following the Prime Minister's announcement tonight, that the school will have to close due to the current pandemic.

Given the lack of notice (we heard at the same time as you), **the school will not be open at all tomorrow, to any pupils.**

We will reopen on Wednesday 6th January to children of Critical workers and Vulnerable children.

Tomorrow, staff will be at school preparing the online learning that needs to start from Wednesday.

As you will appreciate this presents a significant logistical challenge and we will be emailing you several times tomorrow.

We will need to find out the following information:

- Access to technology - is there an internet-enabled device to access Google Classroom (years 1-6)?
- Critical worker or vulnerable status
- If you wish to return to school if eligible.

Please can you complete this google form to return this information

<https://forms.gle/bZMqVK3UiPoGD1ff7>

It is imperative that it is returned quickly to assist the school's organisation. Thank you for your help.

In addition, the school will be emailing the class timetable for remote learning.

The timetable will be the same for all students in a class bubble. So whether they are in school or home learning, they will get the same learning experience. It is expected that all pupils will engage with the remote learning provided. Foundation class will be making use of Tapestry as their learning tool.

If your child requires a place in school (following the results of the Google form above), they will be supported to access learning, remotely provided by the teacher, in their own classrooms with Teaching Assistants support.

Different classes will have slightly different timetables to allow for siblings and limited devices. It will not be possible to fully avoid all clashes but we will do our best to anticipate most.

On that note, if anyone has any old laptops or Chromebooks that are no longer needed, I can get them stripped down and repurposed to support families that struggle to access technology. Please do let us know.

We will also email you (once we have the information) whether your child is eligible to attend school during the school closure. Children eligible would be expected to be in school every day.

However, as I wrote earlier, there will be positives in this situation, some obvious and others unexpected.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school when the time comes and hearing their positive experiences.

I would like to finish with another positive. I would like to thank all of you and the staff for enabling the school to open today, albeit for a short time. It was a delight to see the children today and I know the staff are keen to continue to support the children's learning. Thank you for the positive words of support and the thanks that were expressed on the gate.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Warm regards,

Mr Gibson, Miss Reilly, Mrs Wells, Mrs Moreton and Governors