

Cheswardine Primary and Nursery School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs R Williams



Reach for the Stars

4.1.21

Dear parents/carers

School Closure Decision

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to inform you that our school will be closed for the next couple of weeks at least. Following an increase in COVID cases and the increased transmissibility of the virus variant the Governing body feels it has no option but to close the school until we are sure how to go about keeping all of our community as safe as we possibly can. We are reassured that children do not suffer with the virus as much as the more vulnerable in our society but that does not mean they do not catch it and with a 70% increase in transmissibility it is important that we review all our risk assessments and put in place action plans that will improve safety for staff, children and our wider community.

We recognise that school and nursery are the best places for our children, however until we have a clearer picture of this new strain of virus we will continue to support children through remote learning and online teaching. As a Federation we have a full remote learning plan in place and teachers will be contacting pupils daily to ensure engagement and support learning.

In order for plans to be fully put in place we have decided to move our PD day from Friday 12th February to Tuesday 5th January, so tomorrow both schools will be closed but the office will be open and the schools can be contacted throughout the normal day. I will be working hard to identify keyworker children and those that would be better in school and these will be able to attend their school if numbers are sufficiently small to ensure social distancing from Weds 6th January. Key workers should now have a letter from their employer which confirms their status, please be prepared to produce this as evidence. Any parent whose child has become particularly vulnerable due to the school closing tomorrow should contact us through admin emails or via the Hinstock phone number and we will try to help with a childcare solution immediately.

The situation will be reviewed by senior leaders and governors on a weekly basis and if we are able to open in some way that enables safer practices, eg with smaller groups to ensure social distancing, we will action this as soon as we can. I will also give more clarity on Hinstock's wraparound care provision as I work through actions and talk to staff overnight and tomorrow. A mid-January date for return (initially 18.1.21) has been agreed by governors but please be warned that this entirely depends on government advice and the national picture, which seems to change on a daily basis.

Please follow guidance, stay safe and talk to us if you need our help, despite the nature of this action please be assured we will do all we can to support you, your children and your family over this difficult time.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Rachael Williams (Executive Headteacher)



Cheswardine Primary
and Nursery School

Goldstone Federation

Together we SHINE



Hinstock Primary School
and Hedgehogs Nursery