



Wearhead Primary School

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Headteacher: Tim Hiley - B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

"THE SMALL SCHOOL WITH THE BIG HEART"

"El Colegio más pequeño con el corazón más grande."

Thursday 19th March

Dear Parents,

Coronavirus Update

As you will have heard at last night's press briefing, schools in the UK are to close on Friday 20th March due to the ongoing threat of Coronavirus. This will have been a very difficult decision to take but was inevitable given the ongoing crisis.

At this point we do not know when we will be reopening however, some schools are to be kept open for the children of key workers and certain vulnerable children but at Wearhead this does not apply over the next two weeks and therefore **we will definitely be closed to ALL children until Monday 20th April**. At this point we will reassess whether we will be providing some skeleton cover in school. If we are unable to provide this, the Local Authority will be working to arrange some localised provision elsewhere for those specific groups. Please continue to follow all appropriate press briefings and announcements and keep an eye on the school website for further information as things become clearer.

Rather than rely on an online system of work which requires parents to have access to printers and other resources at home, we have produced learning packs for the children which will be coming home tonight. These packs contain a mixture of activities and will definitely last over the next four weeks and longer if needed. You can of course supplement these by using the online resources we have signposted. If your child is not currently in school we are arranging for these to be dropped off safely or posted to you. Staff will be meeting after school tonight to produce a guide as to what we would like the children to do over the coming weeks if at all possible and this will be emailed and sent home tomorrow. It is going to be so important that the children do at least a little bit of work each day to support their learning and to help them when they return but we do understand the pressures families will be under and we do not want to add to this in any way to this.

I want to assure you that even when school is closed, staff will be working from home wherever possible. This should enable us to advise on more learning support materials, offer advice and answer any email questions you may have. However, it may take a little more time to reply to emails than usual so please bear with us.

The end of this term was also be going to be a time when we had an opportunity to celebrate the many years of service and dedication that Mrs Judges has given to the Community of Wearhead and the many children that have been lucky enough to pass through her class. It is really sad that we will not get the opportunity to do this as a whole community. We will of course have a special assembly on Friday to mark this but unfortunately it will be limited to school staff and children. I am sure many of you will want to wish Mrs Judges well and say your own thank you but at this stage we would ask that you do this via email, telephone or card. I know this is difficult and disappointing but we must continue to think about the wider community and appropriate 'social-distancing.'

I would like to offer my thanks to all the staff who have worked so hard over the past few weeks and just calmly carried on ensuring we did the best for all the children and to the parents and wider community for their support and continued understanding. I will update you again when we have any more information or government advice changes but in the meantime everyone at Wearhead wishes you well over the coming days, weeks and months.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Hiley
Headteacher

