**COVID 19 UPDATE**

Dear parents/carers

As you are aware, we are closed today as a result of last night's announcement by the Prime Minister, instructing us to stay at home. As a result of this we have asked parents/carers to request critical worker provision. Currently at the point of writing this letter we have approximately 100 children across the age ranges. This now puts us in a very different place to where we were in March when numbers were always lower than 20 across the school. Can I remind you that children should only be coming to school if there is no other alternative? If there is an adult in the home then your child must be at home (including working from home). I expect that in the coming days the guidance from government will change to reflect the changes being brought in from Wednesday. At that point we will have to review our numbers and there is a possibility that we will need to revoke some of the places offered today, to reduce the risk to those on site. I want all of your children to be at school learning in a familiar environment, however at the moment we must all work together to stop the spread of Covid 19.

I would ask that in the light of last night's announcement you reflect on your circumstances and consider the risks to your family of sending your child to school where the numbers in some classes will be up to 15 children. These are not small groups and it will not be possible for children to socially distance at all times. The increased speed of transmission of the new strain of the virus presents additional risk, not only to pupils but to school staff too, and it is my responsibility to ask that you seriously consider the Prime Ministers' message to “stay at home”.

The deadline for requesting a place is 5.00pm today. This will enable me to assign the appropriate staff to work with the children in school and also ensure that I have enough staff to provide online learning. Anyone who has not booked a space by 5pm on Tuesday 5th January will not be given the option to secure a slot in the first round of sessions. We will reopen the application process after three weeks.

If, after further reflection, you still require, and are eligible for, a place in school and have completed the relevant forms then please arrive at school at your normal time through your normal gate. Further information will be sent by your child's class teacher later today and can be accessed by your child’s class page on the school website.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school and the wider community safe.

David Harrison

Headteacher