4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

In line with the Government announcement at 8pm this evening we can advise that from tomorrow Tuesday 5th January 2021 it is with regret Chapelford Village Primary **will be closed until further notice**. **Please appreciate that this decision and the late communication is totally out of the school’s control.**

As a school we sympathise with this late notice to parents, however this is unavoidable and out of our hands. This is not the New Year we wished for in any sense of the word.

As always as a school we wish to prioritise the safety of our pupils and our staff and therefore we must advise that **if children can stay at home they should** as we reach this critical part of the pandemic.

No absence from school at this time will affect your child’s attendance negatively.

**Key Worker Children**

Tomorrow we will be accepting the children of critical key workers at school, however we must stress that for the safety and wellbeing of all children and staff that this needs to be on an emergency needs basis only.

**Again, if at all, if your child can stay at home tomorrow they should.**

If you are in need off a key worker place at school for your child tomorrow, please arrive at school to your child’s classroom door as per below:

**Timings**

EYFS Start Time 9am – 9.10am Finish Time 3.10pm – 3.20pm

Year 1 Start Time 8.50am – 9am Finish Time 3pm – 3.10pm

Year 2 Start Time 8.40am – 8.50am Finish Time 2.50pm – 3pm

Year 3 Start Time 8.50am – 9am Finish Time 3pm – 3.10pm

Year 4 Start Time 8.30am – 8.40am Finish Time 2.40pm – 2.50pm

Year 5 Start Time 8.40am – 8.50am Finish Time 2.50pm – 3pm

Year 6 Start Time 8.30am – 8.40am Finish Time 2.40pm – 2.50pm

Please ensure that if your child is attending tomorrow please can they bring a packed lunch for tomorrow whilst we organise the requirements for school lunches for the rest of the week.

**From 11am tomorrow we will be providing remote learning to all children working at home via Seesaw until 2.30pm tomorrow afternoon. Information in relation to this moving forwards will be communicated tomorrow but rest assured our remote learning strategy is robust and will support your child while working at home at these times.**

Tomorrow the school will be working with the Omega MAT to clearly identify key criteria for key workers for this national lockdown moving forwards and this will be communicated, and an application process opened as soon as possible.

**We appreciate parents understanding that we are endeavouring to support those critical to the Covid response tomorrow whilst also maintaining the safety of the school community and staff**.

We appreciate parents using discretion in taking up these valuable key worker places tomorrow.

**Pupils learning from home**

For those pupils remaining at home tomorrow remote learning will take place by their class teacher or a member of school staff from 11am until 2.30pm via Seesaw. Please log on to your seesaw account for your remote learning.

This will allow the school time to undertake further rigorous risk assessments and staffing planning across the school at this critical time. We appreciate your support in allowing us the time to complete this.

**Vulnerable Pupils**

Those pupils identified by the school as vulnerable pupils can attend school from tomorrow. If your child does not attend school tomorrow a member of staff will contact you personally to check their wellbeing and discuss plans for attending school moving forwards for the remainder of the week. Again this does not affect your child’s attendance at school negatively. We do however, wish to support you at this difficult time.

This letter has been composed with a very heavy heart and not the start to 2021 that we had wished for – we were all ready to welcome all pupils back tomorrow with open arms and this is testament to the dedication and devotion of all out staff at Chapelford. However, as a school we do appreciate that these are very uncertain times and national decisions made are with the best intentions of keeping us all safe and well . As my mum use to tell me “ This time will pass ..” and until then we need to work together to keep all our families and loved one’s as safe and well as possible and ensure the very best provision for your children at this time. As a school we appreciate your support.

Please be mindful that tomorrow will be very busy in school – if you have a questions or queries please email us at chapelford\_admin@omegamat.co.uk as this is the best way for us to triage enquiries and support you and also prevent the school phone lines from becoming blocked.

All communications tomorrow will be made via parent mail. See Saw, the school website and social media. Once again we thank you for your support and understanding and wish you all the very best of health at this time.

Kindest regards,

Joanne Hewson