Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly I would like to take the opportunity to wish you and your wider families Happy New Year. I hope that as the year progresses we all find health and happiness for 2021.

As you are now aware Chapelford Village Primary School, like all schools in the country, is currently closed to all children except those of critical worker parents and vulnerable children.  This news came at very late notice on Monday evening and was received with heartfelt disappointment.  However, as a school we understand the need to control the transmission of the new variant of Covid 19 in the fight to keep all of our loved ones and wider community safe.  As a school we were fully ready to reopen to all pupils on Tuesday 5th January 2021 but sadly, this was not to be. I personally thank parents for their understanding of this situation and apologise for the short notice of this announcement - I know that this must have put stress and pressure on many of our families at this time.

During the Autumn term and following on from our steep learning curve from the Spring / Summer lockdown of 2020 we have developed a robust remote learning strategy at pace and have invested comprehensively in both staff training and resources to support this.  Our aim, over the weeks ahead is to put these plans into place to the very best of our ability and endeavour to provide a high quality learning experience, aligned with our signature curriculum for both our critical worker children in school and those children that are learning at home.   If you are having any issues at home accessing the remote learning that we are providing or require any advice or support please do get in touch with your child's class teacher and they will support you.

Online delivery of effective teaching and learning  is a new venture for us all and we hope that parents appreciate how daunting this may be at first for us!  As professionals we immerse ourselves in the personal face to face  interactions with our pupils so for suddenly this to become virtual is a new area of learning for us all!  Please be patient with us - the technology may not always be 100% reliable and we may try and be a little overambitious in our plans - but please rest assured we are doing our very best at all times to deliver learning that will support your child. We, as professionals, are learning as we develop and always reflecting on how we can improve - I am sure that we will not always get it right first time but rest assured we will learn from our misconceptions and errors just like our pupils do. Your support in this new venture is much appreciated. You will be receiving further information from your year group regarding the learning expectations and support at home this week.

As with the last school closure, we may be closed but we are always here for you. If you have any worries, concerns or simply need some support or advice please email us at chapelford\_admin@omegamat.co.uk and we will do our very best to get back to you as quickly as we can and support to the very best of our ability.  We have links with many external  organisations  that we can signpost parents to for support and our school website has high quality resources that can support effective  learning at home and general  well being for all at this difficult time.

The weeks ahead will bring challenges for us all and  as a school we will do our very best to be as supportive as we can to each and every Chapelford pupil.  Once again, thank you for the support that you have shown to the school at this time and thank you to those parents that have taken the time to personally send messages of support to us - these have been shared with the staff and really have made a very challenging few days seem possible.

Take care and stay safe.

With kindest regards,

Mrs Joanne Hewson