



Whitehead
Primary School
& Nursery Unit

'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'

17 March 2020

Dear Parent

Many parents are electing to withdraw their children from school (103 absent on Monday & 140 absent today) as they are very concerned about COVID-19. I totally understand and while we have tried to maintain a degree of normality this has become increasingly difficult with the Governments latest announcements. We have 4 teachers, 3 classroom assistants & a playground supervisor who are either deemed to be vulnerable (advised to work from home) or have been required to undertake household isolation. We have a further two members of staff who could also fall into these categories. With this in mind and taking account of the health and safety of the pupils and the staff we are going to move forward two School Development Days which were due to take place in the third term. Teachers will use this time to prepare work which they will upload to Seesaw during the 3rd, 4th etc weeks of school closure. Therefore,

SCHOOL WILL BE OPEN AS NORMAL TOMORROW

HOWEVER

SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS ON THURSDAY 19 & FRIDAY 20 MARCH

I do apologise for the extremely short notice and inconvenience caused. You all know me well enough to realise that this would not be my normal practice. I am however genuinely concerned about the uncertainty regarding staff / pupil ratios. I have spoken to the Board of Governors and they are very much in agreement. Pupil and staff well-being is always at the centre of every decision that we make. **If the government decides that schools should remain open, assume that we will open as normal on Monday 23 March unless you receive a text message to state otherwise.**

Breakfast Club

Due to staff shortage, there will be no Breakfast Club from Monday, 23 March 2020.

Activity Packs

Could I remind any parent who has not collected their child's pack from the front foyer, to do so as soon as possible. The pack should be used in the first two weeks of school closure. In the 3rd, 4th, etc weeks of school closure teachers will forward mini tutorials and activity sheets using Seesaw.

Y6 Parents

Weekend homework packs & Transfer Test packs were sent home today. If your child was absent from school today the packs are labelled and available in the front foyer. Please collect them as soon as possible. **IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT PLANNING TO DO THE TRANSFER TEST YOU DON'T NEED TO COMPLETE THE WEEKEND HOMEWORKS OR THE TRANSFER TESTS.**

Refunds for Cancelled Clubs, etc

We will be able to refund you for clubs that have been cancelled. However, this will take some time to organise so will not happen immediately.

I have included another list of websites (some are repeated from the original list) which you could use on Thursday, Friday or if you are self-isolating.

Kind regards.

J LOUGHINS
Principal