

**Dear Parents/Carers**

**Update 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

We have a number of staff who were unable to come into school today due to the new advice – either because they have underlying health issues which make them vulnerable or because they have or live with someone with cold/flu like symptoms (coughs/temperatures). All absent staff are unhappy about having to stay at home but we felt it was important to ensure that we were following the guidelines for everyone's protection and wellbeing. At the moment, this has meant that we have been able to open as normal, apart from 2 year old Nursery (Hungry Caterpillars), where we have asked those parents who are able to, to keep their child off this week so that we can staff the setting appropriately. We can provide care for children of parents who are unable to take time off but we are really grateful to those who have been able to help us at this time.

As long as we are able to, we will continue to meet your child's needs in school and provide them with as fun and exciting curriculum as we are able to with the staff we have. I think it is important for us to keep everything as normal as possible for the children for as long as possible in a world that seems anything but normal at the moment.

We understand that many of you have had to make your own decisions about your child's vulnerabilities. We have had several calls about whether or not a pupil should be in school. All we can advise is that if they, or a member of the family, has a dry cough or temperature you should all stay at home for two weeks – you will need to make a judgement about whether this applies to your child or not. You will not be criticised for the decision you feel you need to make.

We have put together Home Learning Packs but will not send these home unless we have to close the school. This is so that we can use these with all children giving day to day input from the classteacher via Tapestry or Email. If we send these now to those children who are already absent they will be working out of sync with the rest of their peers if/when the school closes.

We have plenty of cleaning products, toilet paper, soap and anti-bacterial gel so please do not worry about this!

I would like to say a big thank you for your understanding and support.

We will continue to update you as often as we can.

Jane Woakes