



Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parent/carer

It is with deepest regret that I am having to inform you that following the announcement made by the Government on Monday 4th January 2020, **Rawmarsh Ashwood Primary will be closed from Tuesday 5th January 2020** and will not reopen until further notice. The spread of the new variant of COVID-19 has led to rapidly escalating case numbers across the country and accordingly the government has made the decision to close schools to the vast majority of pupils.

The Government announced that schools, colleges and early years' settings, nationwide, will be closed to the vast majority of children as part of the country's ongoing response to the new variant of COVID-19. It is our intention to be open, in line with Government recommendations, providing provision for **the children of key workers and those requiring additional support** from Wednesday 6th January 2021. **School will be closed to all children on Tuesday 5th January in order for school to respond to this situation.**

It is very important to reiterate that children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home until further notice.

It is our civil duty to continue to provide an education to all of our children. We will continue with providing remote learning activities or home learning packs as required for all children whilst they have been asked to remain at home. We will prepare a bank of work for your child to complete whilst absent from school to ensure that children's education can still continue and this will be updated regularly.

Children will follow their existing curriculum in line with their school timetable. With this in mind, we are now preparing to provide work for your child. We are well-prepared for the situation, with excellent systems in place. Children will receive a pack of activities and work including writing and maths tasks and research projects. There will be continued access to our online website resources and class pages and these will be updated regularly by teaching staff.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure the safe education of their children by encouraging them to complete the work set for them online. Their teachers will send work to you directly, either on dojo or via the e-mail address we have for you. Teachers have had guidance on the various methods of setting work remotely, and in most cases this relies on the teachers and children using online resources in some way. Given that the majority of children, or families, have some access to internet enabled phones, we believe this to be the best method of communication.

We will be establishing a means of conducting some live lessons to children as soon as we possibly can and this will be communicated to you. These will be conducted via Google Classrooms/hangout and we anticipate that at least one lesson a day will be conducted in

this way – as soon as technology allows!

In the meantime please ensure that your child completes the work set for them and that they have a quiet place to work. Our children are used to working independently after initial teaching input – so please do not think you have to sit next to them for them to complete all of their work! If you have any problems in getting your child to do their work – please contact school as soon as possible.

We have already identified a number of children who may not have suitable online access at home and are in the process of supporting this. If you feel you require additional support to ensure students access their learning on line, please inform staff where possible, and we will try and accommodate that in any work we set. We ask that you ensure your child completes the work to the best of their ability and we ask parents to support the school by ensuring all children participate in their learning. Children have already missed a significant amount of onsite education and complete engagement is the only way we can prevent children from falling further behind in their learning.

Teachers will update these work platforms regularly and communicate feedback with you., either via their email address, class dojo or phone calls.

This is not obligatory, but if your child currently has free school meals and you wish your child to continue to access a free school meal, you will need to email the school at office@ashwoodpraimry.org so that suitable arrangements can be made.

We hope you understand that the welfare of both our children and staff has to be our first priority and by taking early action, we will be able to return to 'normal service' as soon as possible. I am so sorry it has come to this!

If I can support you in anyway – please contact me!

Stay safe!

Yours sincerely

Helen Marshall - Headteacher