

Wednesday 18th March 2020

Dear Parents

I would like to thank you all for your support and patience as we have communicated with you over the past days regarding the coronavirus.

I am immensely proud to have been involved with both schools and their communities for a number of years now. In the last few days, I have seen the very best of our children and their families as we deal with unprecedented times and measures.

There is still much uncertainty however knowing the communities as I do I know the common threads of community spirit, Christian Love and some good old Yorkshire grit will ensure we all come together to navigate through the challenges we face.

As I am sure you are aware late today schools received guidance that all schools will be closed by the end of school on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until further notice. Both Follifoot & Spofforth Schools will close until further notice at the end of the school day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Both schools will remain open for the coming two days during which we will make provision for the children attending while also working to prepare for provision for children moving forward. This includes provision for children of key workers and provision for all other children.

If you are a key worker in an essential service such as the (NHS, Police or Fire Service) please contact the school if **you are not able** to make childcare arrangements so that we can put in place provision for your child. Please contact us as a matter of urgency via [admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk) or [admin@follifoot.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@follifoot.n-yorks.sch.uk).

We have over a number of days been preparing for the scenario of children continuing their learning at home. If you have not yet read our communications around this please visit <http://follifootandspofforth.co.uk/coronavirus-updates/>

From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March we will implement the procedures set out in our plans and send work for children via email. We encourage children to complete work during the usual school day while also taking into consideration they may do so more quickly when not having direct teaching. We must not be under any illusion, however, that anything like normal service can be maintained while schools close. Some of our children are as young as four years old and even the curriculum for our oldest children in Year Six relies heavily on direct face to face teaching and ongoing interaction between children and adults in the classroom. It is impossible to get close to replicating these conditions while schools are closed. We will do our utmost to send purposeful and well matched ideas, suggestions and tasks while also making provision for the children of essential workers and managing with a vastly reduced workforce.

In the announcements tonight we learned that all examinations in May and June will not take place. This means all national assessments (phonics screening, End of Key Stage One and End of Key Stage Two Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) will not take place this year. We will communicate further on this issue as we receive more information and guidance.

It is our understanding from the limited information we have received so far that the government will put in place provision for families who are in receipt of free school meals. More information on this will follow when we receive it. This provision will be only for families who have applied for free school meal provision. This provision does NOT apply to families who receive the universal infant free school meal.

Please accept my reassurance that we will keep in touch with you throughout this closure period keeping you fully informed through our usual channels.

If you need to contact the schools during this closure period please do so by emailing either [admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk) or [admin@follifoot.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@follifoot.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for your support, understanding and co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Griffiths Headteacher.