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Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I expect you will have heard the Prime Minister's address to the nation. We have this evening learned that primary schools must be shut with immediate effect to all but a small number of children, which means that we will not be able to welcome the children back tomorrow as we had intended. The closure of primary schools from tomorrow until February half term is short notice for all of us and I fully understand that it will bring inconvenience and anxiety.

The teachers have all been working hard during the holidays, and today, preparing to welcome the children back for the start of term, with new displays and role play areas, and plans for the term's learning in school. However, that must all now change....

We have been preparing for this eventuality for many months now, and the teachers have all been adapting their planning to make it work for children learning both at home and at school. This means that we are in a strong position to switch to remote learning. However, you will need to bear with us a little, as we fine tune provision to make it work for all children and move all classes across to our Google Classroom online learning platform.

I am pleased to let you know that there will be remote learning provision for all the children tomorrow, and will be accessed as below:

Reception – learning has been emailed to parents

Year 1&2 – learning has been placed e put on the school website under [Spring Term Week 1](#)

Year 3&4 – Mrs White has put the children's learning on Google Classroom. She will be on Google Meet from 9am to chat to the children and tell them about their learning for the day. Please don't worry if you don't make that – there's another Meet arranged for 2.30pm.

Year 5&6 – Mrs Nimmo will email the parents with information about the children's learning for the day and she will have a Google Meet with the children at 10.30am.

We will communicate with parents over the next few days, making sure everyone knows how to access their children's learning via Google Classroom and providing details of how to access support should you need it. The teachers will do all that they can to minimise the disruption to your children's learning and we will keep the wider life of the school flourishing as much as we are able. Great Tew is a strong community, with a big heart, and I know that we have the will and the desire to support one another and get through this together.

Of course, the major difference between now and when I last had to write to you about school closure, in March 2020, is that the vaccines are here and they bring with them so much hope – hope is so important for all us but particularly for children. I believe we can all work together to keep that hope alive for every child at Great Tew, to keep them learning and safe and to sustain a sense of the very special community to which we all belong and which we look forward to being physically part of again as soon as possible.

We will be here to support you and your children, not just educationally but emotionally too, and we know that this will get better. As I was reminded by a parent, who emailed me last night, the Spring is coming, the bulbs will emerge, the lambs will bleat and the days will grow longer. Let us remember these things and look forward, we hope, to a brighter Spring.

I will write to you tomorrow about provision for children of key workers. **However if you are a key worker, and urgently need provision for your child tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January, please let me know so that this can be arranged.**

We will so miss welcoming the children back tomorrow. Thank you for your support as we are compelled once again to ask you to keep your children at home while they learn. There will be further communications from me in the coming days. We look forward to working with you during this half term, but most of all we look forward to seeing you back at the school gates.

Best wishes

Mrs Lucy Miles