Head Teacher: Mrs SA Welsh
Augusta Close, Darlington, DL1 3HT, Telephone: 01325 240499, Email: admin@whinfield.net

16th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Coronavirus Update

Currently schools are being advised to open as normal and Whinfield is therefore following Public Health England Advice to remain open.

However, we appreciate that as parents and carers, you are concerned and are beginning to ask questions as the media speculate that schools may close in the coming weeks. Please be assured that **IF** Public Health England advise us to close, our staff are prepared, and we will endeavour to communicate any changes with you in a timely fashion.

What can parents do now?
Continue to send your child to school as normal unless they are unwell eg. have a high temperature or a new persistent cough. If this is the case you should follow the NHS Advice. https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
If you or your child are self-isolating please do not come to school; instead, ring the school office 01325 240499 or email admin@whinfield.net and leave a message informing us of the reason for absence.
Handwashing; Please continue to encourage your child to wash their hands regularly.

Communicating with School:
Our email will continue to be monitored therefore please email admin@whinfield.net if you need to contact the school at any time. School uses "The School Gateway" App / website to send emails and texts to parents. This will continue to be our main method of communication with you.
You can help us by ensuring you have access to and are registered on the School Gateway App / website now. If you do not have access, please send your email address to the school office admin@whinfield.net along with the name of your child so the school details can be updated, enabling you to register for the school gateway.

In the event school is directed to close:
Staff will email activities to be completed at home via 'School Gateway' APP or website. Pupils are issued with logins to a number of safe learning sites which school currently uses:

- Purple Mash, https://www.purplemash.com/sch/whinfield
- My Maths https://login.mymaths.co.uk/
- Times Tables Rockstars https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/53642
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Individual logins will be placed in the back of your child's reading record. Please ensure you have made a note of these.
Staff will be able to access our school computer systems over the internet and will therefore be working remotely.

All parental communication and enquiries should be sent to admin@whinfield.net during this busy time.

Thank you for your continued support.

Shirley Welsh
Headteacher