



**Hookstone Chase**

PRIMARY SCHOOL

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **School Closure**

I want first of all to apologise to you for having to contact you so late in the evening on what should be the exciting time you are getting your children ready to come back to school. You will no doubt be aware of the new strict measures the prime minister has announced late this evening and the timeline in which he has given us to prepare as schools.

Similar to the first lockdown we endured, school will be closed to all children except the children of critical workers and those children school understand to be vulnerable. We know who some of those children are but not all and so we will need some time, as will all schools, to plan for this.

As such we have made the decision with our Trust's full endorsement, to close school to all children tomorrow whilst we plan bubbles, staffing, amend risk assessments and prepare for what will now be a huge undertaking.

I have asked for a small number of staff to man emergency bubbles tomorrow for any frontline workers' children. I would ask that you support us as much as you can with any child care tomorrow but should you need a place and you can provide evidence that you work in the NHS, care sector or emergency services I will do all I can to accommodate a place in school tomorrow. Please email me this evening with details of your requests and I will respond individually.

I am very sorry not to be able to offer more places tomorrow but many of our staff now must shield, some are absent already and I need the support of the leadership team to get everything in place for Wednesday as the government have also announced we must continue to provide free school meals and we need to plan this in to the provision too.

I can tell you that we have worked hard to design online lessons and I will be in touch to see how you are finding these lessons. In the first lockdown we were tasked with regularly calling families of children with special needs, children whose families were vulnerable or needed additional support and families who had requested our contact. Sadly, we were unable to touch base with every family throughout the lockdown period and I will not be able to do this personally or via the pastoral team as there are not enough hours in the day. I am holding you all very much in my thoughts though and would ask that you contact me directly if you have any concerns, need any support, guidance or help. My email is [headteacher@hookstonechase.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@hookstonechase.n-yorks.sch.uk) Please only use this in emergencies otherwise you can contact us via the admin email on [admin@hookstonechase.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hookstonechase.n-yorks.sch.uk) for any other enquiries or give us a call at the office. I can respond to emails in evenings and weekends in the lockdown period and please know that if things are difficult that you are not alone and I am glad to help.

We are waiting for the fine print from the government this evening about critical workers but for this evening please contact me on my email address if you need a place for tomorrow. The school will commence all online lessons and key worker / vulnerable pupil provision on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Good luck to all our lovely Hookstone families. These will be difficult times and we will do all we can to help you over the coming weeks. Stay strong and thank you for your help, patience and understanding in this situation.

Kindest regards,

Miss Watson

Headteacher: Vivien Watson, Hookstone Chase, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 7DJ.

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