Tuesday 6th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

First and foremost, thank you all for your understanding during these difficult times. We have had such huge support from parents, particularly given recent events, as well as some very positive messages passed on over the weeks.

Making a decision to close our school (or part of it) never sits easily with us. As said previously, we are always ‘last school standing’ when it comes to school snow closure amongst the local schools (we’ve been open even when Woodrush have been closed!). However, we have no option but to follow DFE advice when there is evidence of infection in school.

It’s not easy being a school leader (or any worker in school, come to that) during this time. However, we appreciate that there’s a great strain on the community as a whole - there are people whose jobs are on the line, there’s people who have lost loved-ones, there’s people who have suffered, themselves, from the disease. Our thoughts are with them.

I think it really brings it home to us all when we are affected directly. It’s great that, at such times, the community overall pull together and support each other the best they can. Where this has not happened, it has been isolated (though, as mentioned, very self-centred, with some unbelievable stories).

Unfortunately, despite following our risk assessment (that has included PPE), the DFE very much err on the side of caution once infection arises in school (even if it is just one person), enforcing things.

Affected parents/carers should notice some differences with our home learning site. We have improved it even more and reviewed the way we contact families. We appreciate the many positive comments we had over the summer about the site then.

Yours sincerely

Bill Heptinstall