

ENGAGEMENT ENJOYMENT ENTHUSIASM = EXCELLENCE.

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are all safe and well. As you are aware, the Prime Minister has made the recent announcement that England will go into a 'lockdown' situation from 5th November. I understand that this can be very challenging for many however, please be assured that we are here to help so do not hesitate to contact us at slt@hardwicke.gloucs.sch.uk-we can put you in touch with our fabulous pastoral team as well as signpost you to relevant agencies/websites.

I would like to assure you that I am keeping up to date with relevant guidelines from the government but as you can imagine, the rate at which we receive this information is not as quickly as I would like. However, it is essential that the children continue to attend school. The government have made this very clear: "It remains very important for children and young people to attend, to support their wellbeing and education and help working parents and guardians. Senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be, and so they should continue to go to school." Whilst I know this will create some anxiety for some parents/carers, it is essential that we all follow these guidelines. The policy for addressing absence will continue to be implemented.

As you can imagine, I have put some additional safety measures in place inside the school building. This includes all staff wearing masks at the beginning and at the end of the school day as well as in communal areas. Obviously regular handwashing, limited movement around the school and children remaining in bubbles will continue. Equally, some staff will fall into the vulnerable and Clinically Extremely Vulnerable category and this will impact on our school. At this point, Mrs. Bevan is the only person that would fall into this category. Therefore, I am working closely with Mrs. Arinze, Early Years Lead, in order to look at what provision can be put in place for the children in her class. For this Thursday and Friday (5th and 6th) Sam Haughton, alongside Mrs. Tea, will be teaching the children. Miss Haughton worked at Hardwicke last term and is a great asset to the team. Once I have a clear plan for going forward, I will share this with you. However, please be assured that the children's learning and happiness is my priority.

As we head towards the winter months, I would like to suggest that the children wear an additional base layer underneath their school uniform. Windows at school do need to continue to be kept open to ensure that air is well circulate in order to keep all staff and children well and safe.

Please be assured that the school team continue to work hard to keep everybody safe and I very much appreciate your support, by wearing masks at drop off and collection, as well as not gathering in large groups outside of the school.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in contact, should you have any questions or concerns

Wendy D'Arcy
Headteacher

*Love your neighbour as yourself.
We care, learn and achieve... together.*