

24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I regret to inform you that the school will be closed with immediate effect. This decision has not been taken lightly and we have tried to support you as families for as long as we could. However, as the country deepens on the delay phase of the coronavirus spread and more stringent measures are implemented as those announced last night by our Prime Minister instructing people to stay at home and increase social distance, it is now impossible to keep a safe ratio of staff to pupils.

It has been a difficult position for our staff, to continue to come into work to support your children whilst putting themselves and their families at increased risk. My staff have been wonderful, as they always are and have shown great professionalism and social responsibility keeping the school running till now. However, it is now our social responsibility to reduce the amount of people we come in contact with on a day to day basis to protect ourselves and the wider society.

Rest assured, my staff will continue to work in the best interests of your child. We are setting up a remote support system using email and telephone calls. Your child's school key worker, normally a TA who knows your child well will contact you to find out how you and your children are. They will then discuss with you the best way to communicate, e.g. frequency and mode of contact. I envisage this communication to start by the end of this week. The key messages will be then directed to the class teacher if further support is required.

The Senior Leadership Team will be supporting the class teachers and TAs as we would on a normal school day, whilst undertaking the wider duties they need to be continuing. Kate Downes will continue working remotely with EHCP Annual Reviews and any Child in Need meetings that need to go ahead. Lorraine Green will be able to offer advice via the class teacher with regard to Teaching and Learning.

Whilst this news will come as a shock to some and no surprise to others, it has been a difficult decision for me to make. This has been taken with the full support of our Trust, my Chair of Governors and the Head of SEN at Oxfordshire County Council. Can I take this opportunity to wish you and your families well and ask you all to work with us at this very difficult time?

Finally, I am sure you will wish to join me in thanking all of Kingfisher staff and Therapists for continuing to support your children.

Please continue to check regularly your email and the website for updates on when we plan to reopen our site.

Yours faithfully



Lorraine Wilson

### Our Kingfisher View

Kingfisher-a place where everyone is valued to develop independence through an enriching curriculum which is worthwhile

Propeller Registered Office: Fitzwaryn School Denchworth Rd, Wantage OX12 9ET T. 01235 764504

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