4th January 2021

**SCHOOL CLOSURE**

Dear Parents,

As you are probably aware from all of the media coverage in the last few days there is a call from the government for schools to remain open.  However, the Teaching Unions are supporting staff in not returning to school for at least the first two weeks. This has put schools and staff in a difficult position whereby they are trying to balance the need for education alongside keeping everyone safe.

Most of our staff have decided to follow Union advice and only be available for remote working this means we have a greatly reduced staff team. Therefore, the **school will be shut to the vast majority of children for the next two weeks.** We will be in touch before 15th January to discuss possible reopening on 18th January 2021.

All lessons will be online via Showbie for Early Years and Years 1-6. It is really important that you encourage your child to access this platform and complete the assignments set so that they do not fall further behind in their education. Staff will aim to call you in the next few days so if you have any issues or concerns please discuss this with them.

We will be open to Key Workers’ children from Wednesday 6th January. Please email messages@oldhillprimaryschool.com if you require this service. You will be required to complete a form confirming you are a Key Worker. Please let us know by 12.00pm Tuesday 5th if you require a place starting Wednesday 6th January.  All Key Worker children should arrive at 9.00am via Lawrence Lane gate and collected at 3.15pm from the same entrance. Please be prompt as we have reduced staff to main the gates. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer any Breakfast Club facility at the moment.

For those pupils who are entitled to a free school meal, we are still able to offer your child a packed lunch but we need you to collect these from the school. If you would like a meal, you need to let us know by email messages@oldhillprimaryschool.com no later than 12.00pm Tuesday 5th January for collection daily, starting Wednesday 6th January, please note we have reduced staffing and therefore cannot make any deliveries.

It is with regret that we have been put in this position but we hope that the online provision which has been put in place will ensure your child can still access valuable education. I apologise for the late notice but I have only just been made aware of the number of staff who have taken their union advice.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Sally Fenby

Headteacher