



18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Foundation Stage Closure – Thanks and Next Steps**

Thank-you so much to everyone who has supported us in so many ways this morning when we had to take the decision to close the Foundation Stage. We are pleased that beyond the obvious sadness we feel around the closure, attendance across the rest of the school remains as high as ever - at what we all know is a critical time for children to be together again.

Particular thanks and best wishes go to those children of the Nursery and Reception who, together with their families, at such short notice will have had to respond to such an uncomfortable, unexpected and inconvenient change to their plans. Our thanks also go to those parents who we recognise will have made speedy arrangements to enable siblings to get to school, or indeed allow us to walk children into school to support self-isolation arrangements this morning.

#### **What next?**

You will be pleased to know that Miss Loffhouse is well and has completed another, more formal, COVID test which we will hopefully have results of within the next 24-48 hours. As we await the results of this test which will inform our next steps, the Foundation Stage will remain closed. **So, the Foundation Stage will remain closed on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March and we will share further information with you as soon as we know more.**

Guidance tells us that any children or adults who have been present unmasked in the Foundation Stage for a sustained time should self-isolate – this relates to all children and staff from the unit. **There is no requirement for parents or siblings of these children to self-isolate unless COVID symptoms are seen.**

#### **What about learning from home?**

Together with Miss Loffhouse and children from the Foundation Stage, the team of adults from the unit are also now self-isolating. As you might expect they are as keen as ever to see and be with you in spite of the closure and as such are planning to run remote learning sessions similar to those that they offered during the recent school closure. They will be seeking to do this from their homes.

This is going to take some organising as their belongings and many learning resources are in school, and they can't collect them. Be assured that we're working on this and hope to be up and running via phone, online and email very soon. Check in to Google Classroom for updates or go to the school's website [www.haytorview.devon.sch.uk](http://www.haytorview.devon.sch.uk) where there is a new page that will lead you to the right places. There are some ideas about what you can get up to today already being shared.

#### **Self-Isolation - how do I manage drop-off/pick-up?**

Sadly, current guidance around managing these situations in school mean that **we cannot allow self-isolating children onto the school site.** We understand that this will cause challenges for those families with siblings who do not need to self-isolate. We are as keen as you that no children should unnecessarily be missing out on time in school – especially after so much time apart.

With this in mind, please, **if you are unable to make arrangements for your child to be brought to or collected from school please get in touch with us and ask to speak to Mr Hampton or your child's teacher. We will do everything that we can to help with the particular situations that you are faced with.** We will try to make every call worth your while. Sadly we must ask that to enable everyone to feel comfortable, you try to avoid bringing self-isolating children close to school at the start and end of the day wherever possible.

That's all for now. We will be in touch regularly to keep you in the picture over the coming hours and days. Be assured that we remain alongside you, and whatever the outcome of testing, we anticipate the Foundation Stage being open a week on Monday (29<sup>th</sup> March) at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

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