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Headteacher: Mrs. L. Ashton

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you have had a lovely Christmas and you are all safe and well.

**School Closure for Y1-Y6 Pupils**

Unfortunately, due to problems with our heating system, we will be unable to fully open the school, as planned on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

There is currently no heating available within school in our Year 1-Year 6 classrooms and in other areas of the school building, therefore for health and safety reasons all children from Year 1-Year 6 will not return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. As you can imagine, with winter weather and very cold temperatures, we are unable to provide adequate heating for our children at this time.

Our Reception classroom, however, has its own boiler and heating system and therefore the children in the Reception Class will be able to return to school, as planned, on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, investigations will take place to explore the potential source of the heating problem. At this stage we do not know what these investigations will show. Hopefully, we will be able to update you following the outcomes of their visit on Monday.

As we do not know how long the heating in school will be disrupted for, and in order to provide continuity of education for all of the children, online learning will be available on the school website from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Class teachers will be in touch and will provide a letter to the children via the website.

I would like to reassure you that as previously, we will be offering lunches to those who are entitled to free school meals. There will be an updated questionnaire coming out to parents soon to gather up to date information, this questionnaire will also include questions relating to home learning resources for us to ensure that all children can access appropriate learning from home.

We are aware that this situation is difficult for everyone and whilst we would have loved to welcome all the children back on Tuesday, this is something out of our control. I will update you as soon as we have further information to share.

**Tier 4**

The safety of everyone at this difficult time is at the centre of the day-to-day organisation in our school and I would like to assure you that we will continue with all the robust procedures we have in place.

As the Government has now placed County Durham into Tier 4, I would like to remind you that when your child returns to school you keep a safe distance when dropping off and collecting your child and **can we ask all adults now wear a face covering when doing this.**

With best wishes to you all for a safe and happy new year,

Mrs Ashton

Headteacher