



The Hendreds Primary School
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Headteacher: Christopher Savage

CW/AVS 4166

3 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your families are all well; even just a month ago the idea of the school being closed and normal life suspended was unthinkable. However, we are in unprecedented times; we hope your children have found the last two weeks and the new ways of online learning as OK as they can be in the circumstances, given the extraordinary situation we all find ourselves in.

We need to ask for some things from you in the coming months: patience, tolerance and understanding, and as a school community to look out for each other and to keep in touch with each other as there will be a great need to support our pupils and the school through this period. The school will do its best to continue to give structure to pupils' days- they are still our pupils, even if at home- and to keep them engaged and learning, but it cannot replace actually being at school. The Governors and ODS have been helping Chris and Jamie in their planning for school closure and for the move to learning online and not in a classroom, and the teachers will need you to help them keep this online education working as best as it can for your children. We would encourage as much use of calling, messaging, WhatsApp and Facebook groups as possible, so that any answers to problems or improvements that we can make can be shared as quickly as possible across our Hendreds community. We will also need to offer a significant amount of support to Jamie, who steps up to head teacher in the middle of this crisis, and to all the staff at The Hendreds.

There is also an enormous thank you necessary to the key workers, especially among our parents and across The Hendreds community, that have been keeping essential services running for all of us. That includes our very own teachers and staff, who always work as hard as they can to do the very best for the pupils at the school and are now being asked to do so under very difficult circumstances. We want to say, on behalf of everyone including the Governors - thank you very much indeed.

There is one other thank you to make, which is to Chris Savage, as today is his last day as Head teacher after a decade and a half of teaching at The Hendreds. It has been a privilege to see such a great professional at work, giving pupils at The Hendreds the very best education they could possibly get. His calm, quiet, reassuring leadership has been at its best in these last few extraordinary weeks. Chris, thank you for everything you have done

for so many pupils over the years and for the school, and very best wishes for a long and happy retirement from everyone at The Hendreds. You will be much missed.

We will be planning a proper Hendreds farewell for both Chris and our Year 6's once life returns to a more normal state. However, in the meantime we'd like to end by repeating the Hendreds mission statement: we "value who we are, and who we can become". It's more important than ever, we think, to remember the values contained in those words.

If you would like to get in touch with governors during this school shutdown, for whatever reason, the best route remains via the Chair of governors, who can be contacted at chris.wheaton@hendreds.oxon.sch.uk, or via the school office.

We hope everyone stays well. Our very best wishes to you all.

Chris Wheaton and Asta von Stackelberg

Chair and vice-Chair of Governors, The Hendreds School