



Herne Bay Infant School
and Seashells Nursery

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Dear Families

I hope my letter finds you safe and well and may I wish you a happy new year.

You will be aware that the vast majority of schools in Kent are closed for most pupils as of today. The Government have stated that schools in the districts of Canterbury, Dover and Thanet should remain open for all pupils. When fully staffed, Herne Bay Infant School and Seashells Nursery is, on balance, the best place for your children to be. However, in being open we must ensure a safe environment for both pupils and staff.

There is growing speculation that the remaining schools may close to most pupils imminently. At the time of writing, the Government have not confirmed whether our school will close to most pupils, but we are prepared should this happen.

We currently have just over half of our pupils in school today, with the remainder either absent through illness or parental choice related to Covid-19 concerns. We understand that this is an anxious time for so many of us and respect the decisions of those parents choosing to keep their child at home. For any parents who do choose to keep their child at home, absence will not be penalised but we ask that you notify the school office of this decision.

If your child is not in school, please support their learning via the materials being set by their class teacher. We have uploaded home learning materials on our website. These will be updated each week.

In the event of a closure for most pupils, the school will remain open for children of critical workers, children with an EHCP and any pupils deemed vulnerable.

If you are bringing your child to school, please ensure that you wear a face covering during drop off and collection and maintain social distancing to keep members of our school community safe.

I would like to thank you for your support and I shall write again with any updates as the week progresses.

Yours sincerely

Jo Heath
Head of School