**SOUTHWOOD and DOWNS BARN SCHOOLS**

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Monday 11th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This is a letter to thank a lot of people and to give you a few reminders.

Firstly I wanted to say thank you to all of you, our parents and carers. Some schools started back last week with huge numbers of pupils returning to school, making staff, pupils and families feel very anxious with the new variant of Covid-19 being so high in the local area. I was very pleased and grateful that so many of you agreed that just at the moment it is safest to keep children at home, to protect your families and our staff, making numbers in school stay fairly low. It is my intention to keep numbers this low until children can return fully to school, as this is safest at the moment.

Obviously if you think you need support as a Critical Worker parent, or as a parent of a child you may feel is vulnerable, please do contact the school. The guidance for Critical Worker children has now changed to state that if you can keep children at home safely you should do so, so it would be best to do this whenever possible, but if you need us to help, please let us know.

The second thank you is to all our members of staff at Downs Barn and Southwood. Remote learning is new to everyone and all the teachers across both schools have worked tirelessly since the beginning of term to make sure that all children have had 5 lessons a day, as well as giving feedback to children who have uploaded work, answering messages and juggling remote learning, whilst making sure that children in school had lessons ready for them too! Teachers are used to challenges, but the last few months have been particularly difficult, with so many changes and different ways of working. Other staff members have been amazing too, adapting to new schedules and being as careful as possible to follow all the safety measures that we have in place around school. We really are an ACE TEAM!

Please remember to keep uploading the work that has been requested by your child’s teacher – this is so important as it will help your child keep up with the rest of the class and please do keep in touch if any children test positive, so we can keep our records up to date.

Take care of yourselves and stay safe,



Mrs Kate Mathews