



04.01.2021

Dear Parents

Unfortunately, I can confirm that we will need to close some classes at Northburn.

As stated in my previous email, this is due to staffing. Some teachers and support staff are following the advice of their union and are agreeing *only* to being in school to teach children of key workers, those who are vulnerable and those children with an Education Health Care Plan.

I know that there will be a great variety of opinion as to the action school should take. I know that the decisions individuals have made have not been easy ones. I know also that this will cause families great anxiety and difficulty and I am very sorry for that. I also respect the decisions that staff have made in very challenging circumstances and believe their stance is valid. It is not an easy option for staff as they juggle home learning planning whilst teaching children in school.

Our risk assessment is robust, but concerns have been raised over the greater transmissibility of the new variant and to increased risk to the school community.

I am hoping that the partial closure will be as brief as possible. Unions are advising their members that they should return when:

[SAGE is satisfied that the R rate has decreased and scientific advice has been produced on safety measures required to make schools more "Covid secure"](#).

I will continue to communicate with unions, the Local Authority, staff and governors. I will also continue to keep abreast of ever changing government guidance. I will of course continue to keep you all up to date via email and letters which I will also post on our website.

Staff are today working on plans and will update you later today.

Classes NOT affected and open to all children

Nursery, Class 2, Class 3, Class 5, Class 6, Class 7, Class 8, Class 9, Class 11 and Class 13

Classes only open to key workers, vulnerable pupils and children with an Education Health Care Plan

Class 4, Class 10, and Class 12

All parents of children in those classes who have emailed to say they need a place for their child can send their child to school.

Thank you for your understanding.

Clare Scott (Headteacher)

Ann Wheat (Chair of Governors)

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