



Dear families

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister this evening, I am sure that you are all as disappointed as we are to hear that we must close. But as we got through this last time, so will we again.

As you heard the news at 8pm, so did all of the staff team and governors. I have had not further guidance as I write this at 9.45pm from the Department for Education or the Local Authority.

Therefore I am able to make the following arrangements from the information that I have currently:

As of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, school will be closed to ALL pupils except for children of key workers or vulnerable children. If you were eligible for key worker provision in the last lockdown you do not need to email the school office. Please assume that your child or children will have a place. Please may I add that they **MUST** attend the key worker provision full-time. There are no part-time places, as this key worker provision will form a new bubble.

If you are a key worker, as you enter the school site from tomorrow, adults will need to wear a face mask and maintain social distancing rules at all times. We ask that key worker families wait on the yard for the bell at 8.55am and collect children at 3.25pm. We have a list of eligible families from the first lockdown. If you are a Reception parent (your child was in Nursery during last lockdown and weren't involved in the parent survey), and unsure if you fall into this category, please contact the school office on 0191 3009190 from 8.30am in the morning.

If your child is in Nursery or the rest of school and are not key workers, please do not send your child into school. It is with a heavy heart that I say this. Instead, please bear with us as we meet as a staff team tomorrow and get ready to launch remote learning for the rest of school, which will be ready for Wednesday morning.

We request that you refer to the information sent out last term outlining our remote learning offer. We intend to provide a parent friendly guide to remote learning using Google Classroom.

We fully understand that parents may be slightly nervous about accessing a new remote online learning system. Our Year 4, 5 and 6 children will be able to access it independently, however children in lower year groups will need parent support to access this remote learning. Further information will be sent out for families to help guide you through this.

If there is one thing that I ask of you, it is to keep our children learning and reading. Last lockdown proved a challenge to motivate some children, and as a consequence some children returned to school with large gaps in their learning. Please work with us to keep the children's learning going – we will provide whatever support is required for you to do this.

We completely understand the pressure on parents working from home. We aim to make this as pain free as possible! This is a new way of working for all of us, but together we can make it work.

As a staff team we are incredibly sad that we won't be together as a whole school for the time being; we will miss all of our children, but we will return.

Thank you so much for your understanding and ongoing support,

Kind regards

Tracey Taylor  
Headteacher