



*Challenge, Equality & Opportunity*

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### **National Restrictions and School Closure**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Like many of you, we were shocked to hear the Prime Minister announce tonight at 8pm that primary and first schools would close to most children as from tomorrow. This is not consistent with what we were told over the past few days and up until this morning, and so it took us by surprise. I have spoken to colleagues in the GST and we have support from the LA to implement the following plan:

- **School will be closed tomorrow to ALL pupils**
- We will contact you in the morning to gather information via ParentMail regarding which children will need to attend school (children of critical workers who cannot manage childcare at home)
- We will contact parents and carers of children deemed vulnerable via telephone so that we can discuss the best and safest provision, whether this is attending school or staying at home
- Teachers will begin the online learning tomorrow as soon, as they are able to, and with the support of the office staff will make sure that everyone is able to access this offer
- School will reopen partially to those who require places on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January (parents and carers will be given necessary information later tomorrow)

We need to take time tomorrow in order to establish numbers and then work out the staffing and other logistics around our provision as well as supporting staff to prepare for online learning. I appreciate that this will be difficult for some of you but we see no other way of managing this safely and efficiently. Mr Burnett, Mrs Ward and I met after school tonight to look at various scenarios regarding potential school closures but we were not expecting to have to begin to implement our planning 2 hours later!

Please do not contact school about Critical Worker places other than on the form which will be ready tomorrow (we will text you to let you know).

Thank you yet again for your patience and support. We are absolutely devastated to be starting the term in this way, especially after making such a great start today. We will be in touch tomorrow with detailed plans for Learning@Home and further information.

Best wishes  
Helen McKenna  
Headteacher