

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear parents and carers, we hope that you have had an enjoyable Christmas.

As you may well be aware, there is a lot of information currently circulating regarding how and when schools will reopen after the Christmas break and we appreciate that this is a very stressful and anxious time for all.

As school leaders, we receive the same information as everyone and at the same time so we have had no time to prepare for or respond to this developing situation but feel it is really important that we keep you updated. As it currently stands (as of 5pm on Saturday, 2nd January) the NEU (one of the main teaching and support staff unions) has advised its' members that they should not return to the classroom as of Monday, 4th January and they are urging the government to provide face to face teaching for key worker and vulnerable pupils only with all other children accessing learning remotely. It is suggested that this remains in place for a minimum of two weeks in the hope that the rate of infection will reduce and to enable schools to establish a mass testing response.

All unions are united in wanting to ensure that schools are as safe as they can be as quickly as possible. As a trust, our first priority remains the safety of our young people, staff and families. We will continue to follow all guidance and work to deliver a quality education to all of our young people. We remain committed to ensuring all of our young people are in school and benefitting from face-to-face teaching but need to ensure that it is safe to do so. While there is significant uncertainty regarding staffing levels on Monday, 4th January we anticipate that we will not be in a position to open school to all pupils. We very much hope that all key worker children and vulnerable pupils will be able to attend as of Monday and we will seek to provide a quality remote learning offer from Tuesday, 5th January for all pupils.

We are meeting across the trust tomorrow and intend to update all families as soon as we can. We appreciate that this information will cause a huge amount of disruption. Please know that we will continue to do everything we can to minimise disruption. If you need any support in the meantime, please let us know. We will continue to provide regular updates and urge you to regularly check.... Facebook/ website/ etc.

Kind Regards,  
D Day, F Kerr

Head Teachers