

Dear parents and carers,

By now, you will all be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement that the country will enter a third lockdown with immediate effect. All school children across the country will switch to remote learning from tomorrow. It is expected that this will remain in place until February half term

Because of this, our school site will be closed to **all children** tomorrow.

From Wednesday 6th January, school will only be open to those invited children of **critical** key workers or vulnerable children. You will shortly receive links to a survey to request a place for your child because you feel he/she may be eligible. Please be aware that there are strict criteria around the allocation of these places and that we may confirm that you are a critical worker with your employer. Please provide full details on the survey. Tomorrow's closure is required to enable us to make the necessary changes to allow this provision to take place from Wednesday and we thank you for your co-operation.

From tomorrow morning, **all children** are expected to engage with home learning. This is **compulsory** as it is vital that children continue to learn during the next six weeks. Primary schools are expected to provide **three hours of work each day**. We will support both you and your child to ensure that all children can access learning, at an appropriate level for your child. We know that some of you will have concerns about how you will manage to facilitate this, but please be assured that we have a plan ready to roll out immediately.

Work will focus on the key areas of English and maths, but we will also strive to provide a broad and ambitious curriculum. We value the feedback you gave us during the last lockdown and during periods of self-isolation, and we have used this to tailor our offer to fulfil the government requirements, but also respond to the matters you raised with us. For example, you suggested that we should provide a greater focus on writing and grammar and so this will feature in our remote learning offer.

We will make sure that your children have access to a teacher every day, but will structure this in a way that allows multiple children in households to access it. Teachers will be teaching the children each day, as well as setting them tasks to complete. They will also offer further sessions for children to access support from their teacher should they need it. This model has been trialled when we had to close a bubble and proved very successful. We will provide support for you if technology proves to be an issue and we will schedule work to enable the children in your household to share a single piece of technology. Please do not worry about how you will manage - as I said previously, most of you are not teachers and no-one expects you to teach! We know that this lockdown will bring additional pressures to you and, just like last time, we will be there to support you (as well as your children) with all aspects of lockdown life.

Tomorrow, we will send you and your child far more information about home learning. Teachers have set work in your child's **Google Classroom**, ready for them to access tomorrow. I am meeting (virtually) with the whole staff at 8:45 tomorrow morning. After this, your child will receive an invitation to a Zoom meeting. This will take place tomorrow and will give teachers the opportunity to talk to their class and explain how things will work each day. Please encourage your children to attend this meeting as it will contain vital information for remote learning.

From tomorrow, **assembly** will take place at the usual time of **11:55 am**. A link to this will be posted in your child's Google Classroom. This will provide an end to the morning and will give everyone the opportunity to join together as a whole school each day. This is important to help the children to continue to feel as if they 'belong'. Please insist that your child attends assembly each day.

During the first lockdown, a particularly successful part of what we did was the various competitions and challenges that gave an additional focus to your child's day. Whilst not always academic, these opportunities are vital to help us ensure your child's wellbeing. Your children bounced back very quickly from the first lockdown and we believe that these activities fostered a sense of belonging that helped with the bounceback. Again, we would appreciate you encouraging your child to join in with these.

Some children are entitled to Free School Meals (those that qualify for the Pupil Premium) and we will send further information on this to you tomorrow too.

We know that you will have many, many questions. Please be assured that we have plans in place to provide you with the information you need as swiftly as we can. Please try not to contact staff or the school office tomorrow, as we will send information out to you as soon as we have it. We know that you will have concerns, but please know that we will support you as much as we possibly can.

Please look out for the links to the survey to request places for Critical worker / vulnerable child provision.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. I have received many, many messages of support and thanks today, which really help to support us through these challenging times.

Kind regards,
Vicki and the team