



January 5<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear parents and carers,

You will probably have heard the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday that England is returning to National Lockdown until February half term.

As the Prime Minister described the current rate of transmission as alarming due to the new variant.

Regrettably this means that we now need to think about the opening of the school to protect everyone in our community. We have made every effort as you are aware to keep the school open. Staff have done all they can to contribute to this effort in keeping the school open to pupils.

However, Monday's ministerial announcement confirmed that Shielding will be reintroduced and schools will be mostly closed.

We need to take decisive action to ensure that the school is a safe environment for pupils and staff. Some families have already decided to keep their child at home and we are now preparing for remote education.

We therefore will be prioritising places for the following pupils and you must provide evidence that you fall into one of these categories.

**Priority will go to pupils of:**

- Critical workers
- Pupils who have a Child Protection Plan, Child in Need Plan or Looked after Children
- Pupils who are determined to be at highest risk by their Social Care and referred to us by their Social Worker, or are known to the school safeguarding/ wellbeing team.
- Some high-risk residential pupils.

**We will be contacting parents whose child falls into the above categories, otherwise we expect you to keep your child at home and access school work using the online site SeeSaw or the home work packs sent to you from school.**

Covid-19 testing will be carried out for those students who attend, and where we have consent. We received enough lateral flow tests for every student to be tested, and will use these as students return to ensure a safe environment.

**Mrs Caroline Rowlandson  
Headteacher**

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There is now an instruction that people who are Clinically Extremely vulnerable must stay at home and letters are being sent out from the NHS to verify this. If your child may be in this cohort do not send them in even if they are in one of the above cohorts.

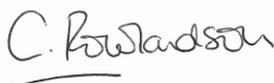
We will, of course, be continuing to review our offer in line with central and local government guidance, and our available staffing.

We will be open for the identified pupils above from 9.30 to 2.30pm during the next 6 weeks 11<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February when the school day ends at 3pm for half term break. Parents will be contacted / notified of places at school via the wellbeing team, Head of Care. For pupils who will have an online learning package will inform parents by letter and /or email.

We will close to all pupils and staff during the Half Term Holiday. Hopefully the school will open to pupils on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Thank you for your support during this difficult time. If the above arrangements pose significant problems – please call the school to discuss and see how we can support your child.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Rowlandson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Caroline Rowlandson  
Headteacher