

4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, here we are again! I can't believe that only a few days ago I wrote to you explaining how our procedures were being implemented to ensure the safe return to school for our pupils tomorrow, and tonight I am writing to you explaining arrangements once again for a school closure! I know that many of you will feel a sense of relief as there has been much speculation over the past few days but I am also sure many of you feel the same sense of frustration we do at all the amazing U-turns we have become accustomed to when scrutinising the government's response to the pandemic.

Please may I apologise for the incredibly late correspondence but with the announcement from the Prime Minister this evening regarding school closures, I wanted to provide you with as much information as possible so that the children, and you, are prepared for what will happen tomorrow.

From tomorrow, 5 January 2021, our school will be closed to everyone **except** children of key workers and vulnerable children until further notice. The Prime Minister indicated that was likely to be until February half term when the decision to reopen would be taken. We will of course inform of the measures as and when they are announced.

The majority of children tomorrow will be learning remotely. Please find attached, as an appendix to this letter, an information guide (also available on the Covid-19 Info page on the school website) explaining what remote learning will look like for your child. We have tried to make the guidance as simple and informative as possible so that you know what to expect, how you can support your child and the school's expectations. Mrs Ellerton is currently sending log-ins and codes to the remaining classes who have yet to access SeeSaw. Year 5 pupils may experience a slight delay, as Miss Barker is unwell. If we have not received the codes by the morning, work will be emailed to you as before whilst we rectify this in the morning. Mr Stevens will be corresponding with Year 5 this week. As schools have been given such short notice and teachers have already planned for face-to-face learning this week, please bear with us in the first instance, as what will be uploaded tomorrow will not be the full diet of what will usually be accessed. Further details will be sent to you tomorrow with regards to arrangements for 'live' teaching, although these instructions have already been included in the guide attached. The full offer will begin on Wednesday, giving the teachers time to adapt their planning and you with the opportunity to familiarise yourselves with the platform. Contained within the guidance are also instructions for those of you who may not have access to devices so it is essential that you contact the school if this applies to you.

School **will** be open tomorrow for vulnerable pupils and those who are children of key workers. We have an idea from before of who to expect but since March, your job or circumstances may have changed so you may now find yourself in one of these categories. Only one parent needs to qualify as a key worker for your child to receive a place in school. If you do not fall into any of these categories, your child must stay at home. You will need to confirm this with myself or Mrs Foster when you arrive tomorrow. Please find attached the most recent list for your reference.

If you do fall into one of these categories, school will be open from 8.45am until 3.30pm. There will be **no breakfast or after school clubs**. Drop off and collection will



be via the children's usual entrance, as this time they will remain in their usual class bubbles. This enables teaching staff to facilitate remote learning whilst delivering face-to-face learning. The kitchen will be closed for the interim, so please could we ask that the children bring in a packed lunch tomorrow. Wellbeing Week activities will still be going ahead as planned so children are allowed to come in their PE/comfortable clothing as originally intended. Myself and Mrs Foster will be on the gates in the morning to greet the children and the children will be dismissed by the member of staff teaching them tomorrow. We ask that all members of the community continue to follow the guidance and that if you or any other members of your household become unwell with a new continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia) to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. This sets out that you must isolate for at least 10 days and arrange to have a test.

Arrangements for Free School Meals (FSM) have yet to be confirmed, but the Prime Minister indicated this evening that support would continue to be provided to those families in receipt of FSM during this lockdown. We assume this will mean that food vouchers will be available once again and should know more information tomorrow. We will communicate this with those families as soon as we receive it.

Apologies again for the late correspondence but hopefully you have all the information that you need for now. The school office will be open from 8.00am tomorrow and we will endeavour to respond and provide you with the answers to any questions you may have as quickly as possible. We anticipate being very busy in school tomorrow and thank you in advance for bearing with us.

As during the previous lockdown, I will be communicating frequently with you so please ensure you check your emails and the school website for information. As always, you know exactly where we are if you need to contact us with questions, for support or even simply for a chat! We look forward with a little more optimism now in light of the vaccine being rolled out, which makes this slightly more bearable than before. We look forward to returning to normality sooner rather than later and hope to see a full return to school in the not-so-distant future.

As always, take care of yourselves and stay safe.

Warmest regards,

Mr D. Adams
Head Teacher