

Lockdown Update 4/1/21

Hello all parents,

You are probably aware that primary schools have been told they must close immediately to all children except those of critical workers and vulnerable children. It appears that this will be for at least the remainder of this half term. We are not aware if extra safety measures (such as maintaining a 2m distance between children) will be enforced. We also do not know what level of protection we can provide for our clinically vulnerable staff and so are unsure of how many children we will be able to cater for.

For tomorrow (Tuesday 5th) we will only be open to children of parents who we previously knew to be critical workers (and so were offered **key worker** provision in the first lockdown) and those from the Foundation Stage who provided us with critical worker information today. If you know you are in those categories (from the information sent out in the earlier emails today) but think we are not aware of your circumstances you can bring your child to school tomorrow as long as you bring along proof of your critical worker status with you.

Attendance for critical worker children is **not** compulsory and the safest place for your child to be will be at home.

As far as vulnerable children are concerned we will begin with a very limited group until we know about the capacity we have to provide safe places at school for children. All children with an EHCP (and siblings) can attend school each day. Other children identified as highly vulnerable will be contacted separately this evening if they are to be offered a place. This will not include all of the children who were able to be offered school places due to their vulnerability in the previous lockdown. We will look to expand vulnerable children provision as and when we know about our safe capacity.

Children who do attend school tomorrow should arrive at the same times as they have done this year and go straight to their classroom door. Breakfast club will be available for the first week at least. For the immediate future we will keep to our bubble model of keeping children and staff safe in school. We will be able to provide school meals for those children.

Children who do not attend school tomorrow should engage with their remote learning through Google Classroom for years 2 and upwards. The school website will be the way for year 1 and Foundation classes to find their remote learning. Teachers will be extraordinarily busy tomorrow but will endeavour to ensure that all children know how to access their remote learning as soon as they can. Further communication tomorrow will be aimed at identifying which families will need support to access their child's / children's remote learning. we do not yet know what provision will be made for children eligible for free school meals.

I can imagine your frustration at the timing of this announcement and know that the vast majority of children will be very disappointed not to be able to see their friends, and enjoy their learning

in school. Engaging with home learning is the best way to minimise the damage this loss of time in school will cause.

You will hear more from me in the next few days.

Best wishes

BJ Gill