

4 January 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers

School Closures

The Prime Minister announced tonight that all schools will close immediately for the majority of pupils until February half term. Whilst we have worked incredibly hard since September to keep our schools safe and have been looking forward to welcoming pupils back to school (and in some schools did so today) we recognise that this is a necessary step to help combat the rising number of Covid-19 cases across the country.

However in light of the immediacy of these changes we are writing to inform parents that **our schools will be closed tomorrow – Tuesday 5 January 2021** for almost all pupils as we make the necessary arrangements to begin this provision from Wednesday.

This is not a decision we take lightly but one that is essential to give schools time to establish the number of vulnerable children and children of critical workers who will need to be supported in school moving forward and which children will be accessing remote learning provision in the period up to February half term. **In order to complete this essential planning we are asking children to remain at home tomorrow.**

Emergency childcare can be requested for Tuesday 5th January by any families **who are working in frontline Covid-19 response roles (this must be both parents/carers or one parent/carer in the case of single parent/carer households)**. As a 'stay at home' order is now in place, we envisage this will be a very small number of children.

To request emergency childcare provision for tomorrow, please contact your child's school by phone or email by 8.00am. Tomorrow's emergency childcare will be provided from 8.30am to 3.15pm and eligible pupils would need to bring a packed lunch. Please do not bring your children to school until you have had contact from your school.

Our schools will be focussing on the following actions tomorrow and Headteachers will be in touch throughout the day to provide further information about our plans from Wednesday 6th January. This will include:

- Plans and details of remote learning provision to all parents and carers
- Contacting parents/carers of children deemed 'vulnerable' and allocate an 'on site' childcare place from Wednesday 6 January
- Contacting parents/carers who work as critical workers to confirm if we can or cannot offer childcare places based on their individual family circumstances and form of job/role
- Giving information on Free School Meals provision for eligible families required to stay at home

I apologise for the disruption this may cause you and ask that you please bear with us during this difficult time. The education of your children, their safety and welfare remains our priority and we will do all that we can to minimise the inevitable disruption.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Daly, Chief Executive Officer

Our Partner Schools