



3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Let me start this letter by saying that I hope you all had a good Christmas break. I know that it was not the Christmas we were expecting when we finished school on 18<sup>th</sup> December. Indeed, we entered tier 3 on the Saturday and then by Sunday we were experiencing tier 4 restrictions and a cancellation of our plans to spend time with any friends or extended family.

Even with those tighter restrictions in place we have, over the last weeks, seen an increase in the number of infections locally and this brings with it anxieties on what further we can do to keep everyone in our school community as safe as possible.

In line with the Government announcement last Wednesday that the majority of primary schools would be opening as planned from next week, we have been using our time over the holiday to plan for Camp School to open on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January after our INSET day on the Monday. We have been revisiting and tightening up further on aspects in the risk assessment to make things even safer for the children and our staff team in school.

However, over the weekend there have been further changes, including a move by the largest teaching union (the NEU) for its members, under health and safety legislation, to take a view based on advice from SAGE that it is unsafe to return to work teaching full classes on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. It also calls for all primary schools to move to remote learning for the first two weeks of January except for vulnerable children and the children of key workers. Our NEU members have today agreed to follow this union advice and this leaves us with insufficient staff to be able to fully open the school to all our pupils.

In context of these changed circumstances and with the support from our Governing Body, I therefore must confirm to you that **Camp Primary and Nursery school will be closed to the majority of pupils for the next 2 weeks**. Learning will be provided remotely from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

I understand that receiving this news so late will be very disruptive to many families, especially if you are trying to work from home at the same time as caring for young children. I also know the children will be upset at not coming back into school to see their friends and teachers. However, this decision is only being made at this time for the next 2 weeks. We want to be welcoming your children back into school for face-to-face teaching as soon as we can safely arrange for that to happen.

In the meantime, please be reassured:

Remote learning, using google classroom (or Tapestry for children in EYFS) will be delivered from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. A further letter outlining the exact daily provision will be sent to you all tomorrow.

School will remain open for vulnerable and keyworker children. If you need to access this provision for the next 2 weeks and qualify as a key worker then please complete and return the google form that will be emailed out later this afternoon and return it by 12pm tomorrow detailing the days you need your child to attend for. If school is to continue to provide remote learning only beyond the next 2 weeks, you will again have the opportunity to declare yourself as a key worker at that point. Please be advised that any children in school will be in small groups led by support staff. All teachers

will be involved in setting and responding to remote learning and will not be leading groups in school.

Once again, I do appreciate the disruption and problems that this is likely to cause for you and regret having to provide the information so late in the holiday period. I will keep you consistently updated as the situation continues to develop and will write again outlining the remote learning expectations tomorrow.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Barton  
Head Teacher