

3rd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

After consultation with the Local Authority and the Trust, I am sorry to inform you that I will **not be able to re-open the school on Monday 4th January as planned**, due to insufficient staffing levels to open fully. I take very seriously the impact that closing school has on children's education and do not take this decision lightly. However, above all I need to keep the children safe while in school and this is not possible at the moment.

At this stage, we do not know when it will be safe to open for all.

I do this with great sadness, and sincerely apologise for the last minute nature of this notification for reasons beyond my control.

I know that for some parents this decision will be unwanted, while others will be relieved that the school is staying closed with the recent rises in COVID 19 cases. I am truly sorry for the inconvenience caused to parents and the upset this causes to the children.

We will open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers (definitions below) from Tuesday 5th January. The work in school will mirror the online learning.

As always, my first priority is to keep children and staff safe. I will keep you fully informed as things change and we will open for all children as soon as it is possible.

In the meantime, **Home Learning will commence for all pupils from Monday morning.**

Daily Zoom registrations will take place for all classes at 9:15am followed by lessons and activities organised by their class teacher.

Work will all be put on Class Dojo with a mixture of teacher videos, activities and online material. Blank exercise books and printed work can be collected from the office if required.

Teachers will respond throughout the school day to queries and give feedback on any uploaded work via the child's individual portfolio on clasdojo.

If the class teacher is working in school on a particular day – they will make sure that they do a zoom call with their own class and other teachers and staff in that year group will support the learning for their class throughout the day.

The Senior Leadership Team and some other staff will remain on site every day and the email and phone lines will be manned during school hours. Pastoral staff are available to contact children by phone, zoom or Class Dojo.

Packed lunches will be available for collection for all children not in school in receipt of benefit-related free school meals between 12.15pm -12.45pm every school day.

Please can all parents fill in the brief questionnaire which will be texted to you so that we can plan who will be taking up places in school and who will be learning from home.

I will do everything in my power to open as soon as it is safe to do so.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Kingsley
Head of School

Those children eligible for in-school education

Vulnerable children and young people

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers
 - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arms length bodies

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

Life-long Learning

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors