

4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus Update for all Parents/Carers

The Government has announced tonight that parents are asked to keep their children at home wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open from tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January, only for those children who absolutely need to attend. It is stressed that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children but the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread, infect vulnerable individuals in wider society and overwhelm the NHS.

We are therefore being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

The Government has stated that many parents whose work is critical may still be able to ensure their child is kept at home and that every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. Parents are asked to follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

As a result of this late notice school will be closed for all children tomorrow. If you are unable to keep your child at home from Wednesday 6th January 2021 and fall into a critical worker group, please complete the Critical Worker application form attached. We will need a response to this by 2pm tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January 2021) to allow us time to form an appropriate plan.

I will write again tomorrow with further details about our plans and our approach to remote learning during this period.

We continue to navigate a turbulent and emotional time and I would like to thank everyone for their messages of support and encouragement.

David Gunning
Head of School