

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **National Lockdown: Move to Remote Education**

Along with the rest of the nation, schools learned that as of tomorrow we move to remote learning for all pupils, apart from **children of critical workers and vulnerable children**. This is due to the national lockdown which is in place until February half term. We understand that there will be some confusion and this letter sets out the plan for tomorrow. Our schools are not closed and tomorrow all of our staff will be in school.

Due to the timing of the announcement it is simply impossible to put everything in place for tomorrow for remote learning. We will contact families tomorrow to outline the provision for remote learning during the coming lockdown period.

### **Who Can Attend School During the National Lockdown?**

We are open to **vulnerable children** and the designated list is as follows:

- Children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked after child.
- Have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- Have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or LAs and could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include: Children on the edge of receiving support from children's 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 being NEET (not in employment of education)
- Those living in temporary accommodation
- Those who are young carers
- Those who have difficulty engaging in remote education at home (we will talk to you about this if we feel your child is eligible under this criteria)
- Care leavers
- Other children at the provider and LAs discretion including pupils who need to attend to receive support or manage risk to their mental health.

If you are unsure if your child falls into the vulnerable category, please contact the school.

We are open to **children of critical workers**. We will be sending a questionnaire to all parents to establish whether they fall into the critical worker category but as a guide, please only send your child to school tomorrow if you meet these criteria and remote learning is not an option for your child.



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# TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE



Eligible children have 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
- Education and Childcare
- Key Public Services: essential to running of the justice system; religious staff; charities delivering frontline services; those responsible for management of the deceased; journalists and broadcasters.
- Local and National Government; only those administrations essential to the delivery of COVID-19 response, EU transition and essential public services such as payment of benefits and certification and checking of goods for export and import.
- Food and other necessary goods; production, processing, distribution and those essential to other key goods such as hygienic and veterinary medicine
- Public Safety and National Security
- Transport and Border
- Utilities, Communication and Financial Services

### **School Meals**

Free School Meals: we will of course continue to provide food for children who are eligible. However we will be unable to provide this tomorrow due to the short notice. Any child attending school can still access a school meal. We will be writing to you tomorrow to ask eligible parents if they require food hampers.

Please do not hesitate to email or call the school tomorrow if you have any questions. Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support. We will be in touch further tomorrow.

Regards,

*Mrs Edwards*

Head of Academy