

5th January 2021

Ms J Palmer BSc, MA, MA, NPQH
Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

Good afternoon, I am writing again with more information following on from the announcement from Boris Johnson last night when he explained that we are in a national lockdown. Schools, colleges and universities are closed while nurseries and special schools are remaining open.

We will be operating with approximately 47% of staff who are not available for their regular work commitments while 42% of families wish for their child to attend. With these figures in mind, I believe we will be able to meet the request of most families.

In order to ensure we are reopening safely, we will be doing so on a gradual basis. Our initial intake of pupils will be mainly comprised of the children of key workers and looked after children; from there we will move toward welcoming back our most vulnerable pupils.

We have had to make several changes to how we operate:

- Children will most likely not be in their usual class groups. New groups are being formed across the school with pupils of a similar age and learning style. This also means that children will be with different peers, Teaching Assistants and Teachers.
- Some pupils will only be able to attend on a part-time basis, for example 2 – 3 days per week.
- Classes will have a maximum of five pupils.
- Instead of eating lunch in the main hall, classes will be taking their lunch break in the classroom.
- Beginning and ending times may need to be altered in due course.
- In terms of pupil learning, the emphasis will be on the recovery curriculum and EHCP targets.
- All staff will be wearing masks when moving about the school and it is up to each individual member of staff to choose whether or not they wear a mask in the classroom.
- Each class will work independently, yet will be a part of a corridor bubble.

In addition, could you please be mindful of the following:

- All parents/carers must wear a mask when on the school site – thank you for your support with this it is a very important measure to help reduce transmission of the virus.
- Should an ambulance be required for your child while they are in school, please be aware that there may be a significant delay of several hours. **Therefore, each child in school will need to have a parent/carer available to come to school quickly in the case of an emergency.**
- Children from various bubbles are mixed in transport vehicles and unfortunately this is something that is unavoidable.
- **We are asking that staff do not converse with parents/carers during arrival and departure times. This is to limit transmission of the virus. You are always welcome to telephone or email school if you need information.**

Families will be contacted individually if we are able to offer a pupil a place tomorrow, 6th January. If you do not hear from us this afternoon, then unfortunately we are not able to have your child in school tomorrow. We will be in touch daily as we are gradually able to take more children until, fingers crossed, we reach our goal of having a place for all the families who have made such a request.

Continued./...



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Thank you for your patience and support, I will be in touch again tomorrow with more information including details of testing.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Palmer".

Jill Palmer
Principal

