



Dear Parents/Carers

4th January 2021

Education and Childcare Settings: New Tier 4 Restrictions December 2020

Following the Government announcement on Wednesday 30th December 2020, the North East of England moved into Tier 4 restrictions with effect from Thursday 31st December 2020 to control the rapid spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

There has been much speculation in the media, regarding the safe return to school for primary pupils and staff. As I'm sure you are aware, teaching unions have advised staff not to return to work as they do not feel it is safe to do so for the first 2 weeks of term, due to a lack of scientific evidence around the new strain of Coronavirus. Currently all unions are liaising with the Government around Health and Safety legislation.

As a result of this advice, our staff have had to make some extremely difficult decisions and the governing body have had to make a risk assessment based on staff availability. It is for this reason we are **unable** to reopen **Playgroup, Meadows, FSU1, FSU2** and **Mrs Shearer's Class (Y5)**, which will remain closed for the following two weeks, when the situation will be reviewed again. However, Mrs Shearer's class, FSU 1 and 2 will remain open for key worker and vulnerable children, with those children not in school receiving remote learning.

We will be updating our current risk assessment in light of the increasing transmission and infection rates, which will be shared with you when complete.

For the safety of pupils and staff, we are suspending Breakfast Club and After School Club until at least Monday 18th January.

I apologise for any inconvenience, but as you will appreciate the situation is changing daily and I will provide you with any updates as soon as possible.

I hope you have all had a happy Christmas and New Year and are keeping safe and well.

Mrs L Wells

Headteacher