

4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

May I take this opportunity of wishing you a Happy New Year.

As you know, the Government expected all primary schools outside of London and the South East of England to open today and this we did! Only yesterday, when being interviewed by Andrew Marr, the Prime Minister told us that it was safe for primary schools to open. I am incredibly proud of all my staff, for their hard work and dedication in enabling this to happen and my heartfelt thanks are sent to them.

Unfortunately, only 34 hours later, at 8pm this evening, we have been told on national television that all schools will be closed from tomorrow. I know that for many of you this is distressing news, as it is for us and I am truly sorry that we find ourselves in another national lockdown. Unfortunately the Government hasn't given us any forewarning of this and we received the news, via television, like yourselves.

From tomorrow all Trust schools will be closed for all pupils except for the children of critical workers and those who are vulnerable. If children of critical workers usually attend Care Club this will still be available. Online work will be available from Wednesday 6th January and your school will communicate this to you tomorrow. There will be no online provision or work set for tomorrow due to the late notice of the closure. Teachers had planned for children to be in school as usual. Latest Government classification of key workers can be found on the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

As always, I would like to thank you for your support and understanding during these difficult times. I would like to reassure you that we will do everything we can to ensure that our children are supported with their learning. I am sure that like us, they are very upset and worried and we need to do all we can to reassure them.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr PJ Lovern  
Chief Executive Officer