

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly and most importantly I do hope you managed to enjoy a restful and holy Christmas and kept well in these uncertain times.

No doubt you will have seen the news that we are once again entering lock down from midnight tonight and that school will not re open on Wednesday as planned. I for one am extremely disappointed, not just as a headteacher but as a parent. It is not just the lost learning; it is the social interaction and friendships that are crucial. However here we are.

A full teaching timetable will be available each day on Google Classroom. It is a format we have used successfully this academic year and feedback from when classes have been closed has been extremely positive. We will make use of videos but we will not be offering live lessons. Lots of our families do not have a device for every person in the house so we believe pre recorded lessons mean that no one is left out. A family with two or three children and one device cannot watch two or three different lessons live. We expect the lessons to be completed on the day however as a family you can dictate the timetable. The teachers will be available all day for support, questions and feedback.

As we have been on holiday Trafford have offered each school an extra day to plan the provision and logistics. As a result the lessons will not be available until Thursday. Staff will be in school all day Wednesday planning content for home learners and the key worker children in school.

Also from Thursday we will be open to key worker children. As in previous lockdown we are limited on numbers due to staffing and ‘bubbles.’ Therefore we will once again ask you to complete a form and return to the school office. They are available on the school website (letters page). Priority will be given to children where both parents are key workers and there are no other childcare arrangements. There are no guarantees as we are limited on numbers. The children in school will not be directly taught by their teachers, they will follow the work set online for the children at home whilst being supervised by support staff. The teachers will be providing work for the majority of children at home.

Please be assured I share your frustrations and worries but we will get through this and make a success of it for our children. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mark Mountcastle