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HEADTEACHER: Mrs P A Hartley BEd (Hons), NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD: Mrs J Hardman BSc (Hons), QTS, NPQH

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to my recent communication earlier today, whilst we anticipated Government announcements and tighter restrictions to follow, the very late decision to close primary schools this evening with immediate effect is both unhelpful and disappointing.

Staff have worked hard today to put in place those additional measures which go beyond the requirements outlined in the DFE guidance. These are extremely relevant now given the Government statistics and school is as prepared as it can be to receive children whose parents are critical workers or have pupils who are vulnerable (LAC or EHC Plan).

Throughout tomorrow, Teaching Staff will now be preparing the delivery of high quality remote lessons for all using Tapestry and Seesaw applications. All online learning will be available from Wednesday. Children of critical workers who need to attend school will be supervised whilst undertaking the same online lessons as their peers at home.

#### Critical Worker and Vulnerable Pupils

From tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January, parents who are [critical workers](#) or have pupils who are vulnerable (LAC or EHC Plan) who have requested a place earlier today (for a Tuesday) for their child will be able to send their child into school tomorrow. I can confirm to all parents who have requested places so far that a place has now been allocated to your child.

The school hours for critical workers and vulnerable pupils will be 9:00am until 3:30pm, please use the current entrances and exits you have been using.

#### Before and After School Care

The Before and After School Care (Squirrels) will be available this week to critical care and vulnerable pupils on the days your child is in school. Please contact Pauline in the usual way to arrange this provision. If this service does not prove to be financially viable then this may need to be reviewed but we will give parents plenty of notice (unlike the Government).

#### Illness

We really depend on your support with this. **So please, do not send your son/daughter to school if they have:**

- a high temperature – this means feeling hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature),
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual),
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Additionally, **if anyone else in the family home** displays symptoms, everybody must self-isolate until the poorly family member has returned a negative test result. Even if someone in the household goes for a test



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as a precaution and you expect the outcome to be negative, the entire household **must** isolate until a negative test result is confirmed.

Whilst this goes against everything we usually say in relation to attendance, if your son/daughter is generally feeling unwell, but they aren't necessarily displaying Covid-19 symptoms, my advice is to keep them off for a day as a precaution. This will ensure that any general illness symptoms doesn't transform into Covid-19 symptoms the following day.

These last 24 hours have been constantly evolving and I can only apologise for the short notice to all parents about the ever changing information and situation that we find ourselves in. What I can assure you is that we are responding as rapidly as possible to the changing situation. Our approach continues to put the health, safety and welfare of our children, our staff and our wider school community at the heart of every decision we make, and this is how we will continue to operate moving forward.

Please continue to take care, follow the safety guidelines and look after yourselves and your family. We look forward to seeing you as soon as we can fully reopen.

Thank you for your continued help and support.

Yours sincerely

PA Hartley  
Headteacher