

4th January 2021

Dear Parents

Thankyou for your patience today. This letter comes so late at night after we've had a whole staff zoom meeting, I've spoken to Clubhouse and our Chair of Governors as well as emails from many of you; again, I am so grateful to have such a great team around me.

Boris Johnson's announcement of a national lockdown beginning at midnight is rather short notice (!) but probably a most timely move in the long run. We are certainly more prepared for this one than we were for the first back in March 2020 however, mobilizing such a sea change in provision does take some logistical organisation!

Pre-school will be open in some shape or form this week although it might not be as we know it as one member of staff has a partner who is critically vulnerable and shielding and another has COVID tests booked tomorrow for her children. Mrs McInnes who we 'stole' for Year R may be in to support Mrs Carter for the next couple of days.

Tuesday 5th January

IN SCHOOL

Tomorrow we would really appreciate it if as many children could remain at home as possible. I realise that this is dreadfully short notice but it would really help give us some breathing space to plan what the provision is going to look like and get resources ready to help families at home. Where possible, places should only be taken by key worker children if there is no one at home to care for them safely.

AT HOME

All other children should remain at home. This is the in the general spirit of the lockdown and will enable us to plan something more robustly for the following few days and a plan for the weeks to come. I realise that this may be of great inconvenience to some of you and I can only apologise for this but it is the situation we find ourselves in with such short notice.

Wednesday 6th January

IN SCHOOL

We hope to have as near normal provision up and running by Wednesday as possible. We will contact you individually on Tuesday to see if you still want your child to have their days in pre-school given the lockdown situation so please do watch out for our call.

AT HOME

Pre-School staff will, from Wednesday, read a story a day to the children and leave some other activities on Tapestry that are tailored for the children's interests and next steps. Please do engage with these and interact with us on Tapestry – there will be a member of staff dedicated to Tapestry each day during lockdown.



FROM MONDAY 11TH JANUARY

Given the very short timing of this, I can only speculate as to our provision from this date. We will get through to Friday and use every minute of our time to be planning outstanding provision for your child both at home and in the setting given our limitations on staffing. We are aiming to have at least one live session a day for your child with a story or activity to engage with so that we touch base with them and you. We'll write with further information about this later in the week.

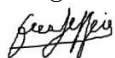
I am sure there will be a million things I've forgotten to write about or that you need to know. Please do bear with us if you don't get an immediate response in the next 24hrs, we will get to you, I promise!

We were very proud of the home learning we provided during the last lockdown but of course there are lessons learnt and we are determined to improve on this provision further over the next 6 weeks. I am so very sorry that we are in this position again after such brilliant progress was made in the last term. I hope that we can maintain some of that momentum and return together very soon after February half term.

I know I am in grave danger of drowning you with letters and messages but I will write again by Wednesday to confirm further details and any other points that come out with further government guidance.

Thankyou for bearing with us and for your kind words to date, they really do lift our school community.

Kind regards,



Emma Jefferies
Headteacher

