



December 31st 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families all had an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas.

Updated Information Regarding Covid 19 and the Spring Term 2021

You will be fully aware that the infection rates of Covid 19 have continued to rise, especially with the new variant of the virus. This is very concerning within Milton Keynes where the rates are high but more so for us as a school given the nature of our pupils. It is certainly positive news that the vaccination programme has started and as from next week aims to be rolled out even further.

Following on from yesterday's announcements regarding the situation within schools by the government, I, together with the Strategic Leadership Team of the School (which includes the Governing Body), and following discussions with Milton Keynes Local Authority, have made the decision to close the school for **all pupils on Tuesday January 5th**.

This will allow us to have time to:

- Complete a full review of our Covid 19 Risk Assessments, together with representatives from colleagues in Health and Social Care. This is in line with the latest information from the Department of Education which states that schools need to '*consider the additional risks and control measures that are needed to be able to return to full capacity.*'
- Establish our procedures, as well as identification and training of staff to help the lateral flow testing that we are expected to be able to do within schools. A letter will be sent home next week for those pupils of secondary age for parents to give permission for testing to occur. However, we do acknowledge that for some pupils this will be difficult and as such should they show symptoms we will need you to take full responsibility in arranging for your son / daughter to be tested.

By Tuesday January 5th it is anticipated that we will have a fuller picture of our staffing numbers as Covid 19 has also affected their family life. Some staff are:

- Shielding
- Having to self-isolate or looking after their son / daughter who is having to self-isolate.
- Are absent due to long term / short term sickness.



I am sure that you will appreciate that without the correct number of staff within each bubble / class group we will have no alternative than to close classes within bubbles so as others may remain open. Or, as previously we will ask for your son / daughter to remain at home on a rotational basis. We have fully reviewed and updated the procedures that were successful last term, but continue to keep the majority of staff working within their own class bubble. There are of course exemptions to this of staff who, due to the nature of their role within school, have to work across bubbles, but again we have strict procedures in place for this.

I would like to request that you all arrange for your son / daughter to be tested, as per the letter that was distributed last week and let us know the outcome of the test.

Please could I also remind you all :

- Not to send your son / daughter to school if they are displaying any signs of illness or are 'under the weather.' This includes Covid or non-Covid symptoms. This forthcoming term is one where we always experience a high level of sickness, diarrhoea and colds as well as other infections and it is our utmost intention to try to keep everyone - pupils and staff alike as well as we possibly can.
- That you are to be contactable at all times in case we need your son / daughter to be collected from school, due to ill health.

During Monday and Tuesday your son's / daughter's class teacher will be in contact with you by telephone and for those who will not be returning to school we will be delivering activity resource packs.

The following information regarding support has just been received from Milton Keynes Local Authority:

"We know many of you will have questions or concerns about the start of term next week. We are here to support you with any questions or worries and the SEND Support Line will be open

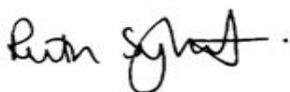
Thursday 31st December 12 to 6 pm
Saturday 2nd December 9 am to 3 pm

01908 657825 or email SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk

You will need to leave us a message with your name and number but we will call you back. "

Thank you all for your ongoing support with this during such unprecedented times.

Finally, let us all hope that 2021 is a better year and I wish you all the very best for the New Year.



Ruth Sylvester
Headteacher



Mike Rowlands
Chair of Governors