

3 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Coronavirus update - school closure to most pupils

I do hope that this letter finds your family safe and well – I know that some of our families have unfortunately been affected by covid-19 over the Christmas break and our very best wishes go to all of you.

As you have likely seen / heard, the government announced changes to the plans for the new term yesterday. Due to high rates of infection across Milton Keynes, primary schools (including infant and junior schools like ours) will be **closed to most pupils until further notice**. I want to note that we were not told this ahead of time – we learned this news with everyone else yesterday evening.

We have seen the local increase in infections first-hand. I wrote to you on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December informing you that a pupil at school had tested positive for coronavirus having suffered symptoms earlier in the week. Another pupil in the same year group, along with five staff members working in that year group subsequently tested positive just after we broke up for the holidays. Some of these colleagues have been very poorly over the past few weeks, and we continue to wish them well with their recovery. All staff will be returning to school next week (assuming they are well and not self-isolating), and I want to thank them again for all their hard work throughout this year and next in providing the best possible support for our children.

**School will remain open only to children of ‘critical workers’ and those classified as ‘vulnerable’ (including those on our special educational needs register).**

You can find the definition of ‘critical workers’ at this [link to the government website](#). Please fill in [this survey](#) if you believe you qualify as a critical worker and indicate whether or not your child will need to attend school next week.

**You must complete [this survey](#) by 5:00pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 (tomorrow) if you need your child to attend school next week.**

To reduce likelihood of virus transmission, we ask parents who are critical workers only to send their child to school if they must.

The parents / carers of children who classify as [‘vulnerable’](#) will be contacted by email by 12:00 on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, inviting their children to come to school.

Headteacher: Mr C. Brown. Assistant Headteachers: Mr L. Bartishel and Mr J. Wilson.  
Springfield Boulevard, Springfield, Milton Keynes, MK6 3HW  
Telephone: 01908 670681

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## When will schools fully reopen again?

We do not yet know when schools in Milton Keynes will fully reopen again. The government indicated yesterday that they hope it will be 18<sup>th</sup> January, depending on local coronavirus infection rates. We will keep you up to date with information as we hear it.

## Remote Learning

We will be offering remote learning to all our children who are at home if they are self-isolating or because of the partial school closure outlined above.

Because we only learned of the partial school closure yesterday, currently we do not know how many children of critical workers or vulnerable children we are likely to have in school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

There is a clear possibility that we may have just over one hundred children still attending school. If this is the case, we will not have the staffing capacity to offer live online teaching to the children at home. From our survey last term, we also know that many families have more children than they have electronic devices. This means that live lessons would prevent a lot of our children from being able to access learning. Therefore, we will be offering a blended approach of work and quizzes set online, daily videos created by our teachers for each year group and regular live 'Question and Answer' sessions run by teachers. This will evolve over next week, so please keep your eye on the Home Learning section of our website from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

If you are unable to access the learning remotely, please contact the school office on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January and we will be able to support. We will also be offering paper copies of all learning. You can arrange to collect these by telephoning the school office in advance.

## Free school meals for pupils at home

Those children who are eligible for free school meals will be provided with one. At the moment, we do not know the details of what this lunch will entail or how they will be distributed but will write to give you this information as soon as we have consulted with Caterlink, our meal provider.

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## Children attending school

If your child is eligible to come to school, they will continue to be taught in their year group bubbles. Cedar class will be open as usual. Timings of the day (including staggered starts / finishes) will stay the same as they were before Christmas.

Safety will remain our top priority. All of our covid safety measures (including increased cleaning) will remain in place. We ask all parents who drop off and collect their children to wear face coverings or visors at all times and follow our social distancing expectations and routines. Anyone not wearing a face covering or visor will be asked to leave the premises. All staff you come into contact with outside will also be wearing a face covering or visor.

Breakfast club and our school minibus service will continue to run, in-line with government guidelines.

## Lunches for children at school

**Children who are attending school should please bring their own packed lunch, unless they are usually eligible for free school meals.** If your child is eligible for free school meals, a lunch will be provided for them. Further details of this offer will be given once we know how many children will be in school and we have consulted with Caterlink.

We will try our very best to keep you as up to date as possible. Again, we find ourselves in an ever-changing situation, so please do bear with us. You have my full reassurance we will endeavour to do the very best we can for your children in whatever way we can.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year and thank you for all your kindness, support and patience.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. C. Brown  
Headteacher

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