



Learning through faith,
we dream, believe and achieve.

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Thursday December 31, 2020

School Reopening – January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will have seen in the news yesterday that Nottinghamshire has moved into Tier 4 and primary schools are to remain open. There will be many personal opinions about this from our families. Please know we will try to support you in whatever decision you choose to make.

There has been a huge increase in positive cases locally and nationally this week, with the last three days each having a higher number of positive cases than at any other point since this pandemic began. There will also be parental concerns around the issue of families not being permitted to mix over the Christmas and New Year period, but children from 30 separate families now being able to mix freely in their class. Because of this, we are extremely sympathetic to families who do not wish to send their child back to school next week.

Therefore, we will not be reintroducing penalty notices for pupil absence for the foreseeable future. If you want to keep your child safe at home, we will support you with this. We are in a position to provide online learning daily through Seesaw and our live-streamed lessons, as well as already providing you with packs of workbooks which were sent home at the end of last term.

If your child is identified as being 'clinically extremely vulnerable' then they are not to come to school and should access their daily learning from home.

We also understand that some of you will want your child to return to school next week. Our school will be open on Tuesday and the timings for each Bubble Group remain the same as last term. Please be aware that, due to infection levels rising so rapidly, we will have to be even firmer around restricting access to communal areas, for example denying access for late arrivals through the office entrance.

We have been very fortunate in our school that the number of positive cases has been relatively low, meaning we did not have to close our Bubble Groups very often last term. With these considerably higher rates of infection locally and nationally at the current time, we are expecting to have to close our Bubble Groups due to positive cases more often.

In addition, a crucial element which is often forgotten in discussions about schools remaining open is that the staff team have the absolute right to work in a safe environment. In the current circumstances of very high levels of infection, we will be analysing this matter in great depth next week.

One option which is being considered is a potential 'rota system', where half the class would come in for one week then the other half of the class in the following week. If we ended up trialling this model, we would look to remain open for children of 'key workers' and those identified as being 'vulnerable' every week.

From yesterday's announcements, we understand that "primary school staff will be offered the opportunity to access weekly lateral flow testing sooner than February". Therefore, if we do choose to adopt some kind of 'rota system' in the near future, we could potentially return to full pupil attendance sooner than February.

These potential scenarios are purely speculative at this point though. To be completely clear, we will be open to all pupils who wish to attend next week.

Many thanks for your continued help and support.

Kind regards,

Nadeem J Shah
Headteacher

