



Learning through faith,  
we dream, believe and achieve.

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**Headteacher: Mr Nadeem Shah**

**Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Hannah Pembury**

Sunday January 3, 2021

### Temporary Move to Online/Remote Learning

Dear Parents/Carers,

First of all, on behalf of our whole team here, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and I hope that you are all keeping safe and well?

I am sure that you are all aware of the developments within the education sector over the last few days. The NAHT (Headteacher union) has initiated a legal challenge to the government's decision to fully re-open primary schools which are in tier 4 areas on Monday 4th January.

At the same time the NEU (England's largest teaching union) and UNISON (the support staff union) have advised their members of their legal right not to return to teaching full classes of pupils amid significant health and safety fears.

Although the government are adamant that schools are safe places to work, following the release of the minutes of a meeting of SAGE 74 (1) held on 22nd December, it is now clear that SAGE told ministers that they needed to close schools in January to contain the coronavirus. They are so concerned about the new variant that they cannot be sure that measures like the Spring lockdown will be enough to get the R rate below 1.

As a result of this, many staff who work closely with high numbers of children currently feel unsafe at school. As you know we have an extensive Risk Assessment in place, which is under regular review but the increasing rates of transmission alongside this 'new strain' of the virus is putting added pressure on to all staff. We just cannot guarantee the safety of the staff, children and whole school community at this time and everyone is being put at an increased risk.

Whilst we believe that the best place for all children is in school, learning and playing with their friends, we feel that the risk is too high at the moment and we have a duty of care to everyone in our school community. Therefore, **we have taken the difficult decision to temporarily move to online/remote learning for the time being and to only re-open the building to facilitate childcare for the children of 'Key Workers' and those identified as being 'vulnerable' from Tuesday January the 5th.**

The full list of Key Workers is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Online learning will be available for all children, as it was throughout last term, and this should be accessed through our Seesaw programme. Your child's Seesaw access codes are in their reading journal. There will be a mixture of lessons, internet links and activities. We also sent out a pack of work books at the end of last term, in case something like this happened. Please support your child's ongoing development by accessing these as much as possible during this time.

If your child is not attending school please expect to receive a welfare call from at least one member of staff during the week. This will be to check that everyone is ok and you are able to access the online learning. You will also be able to discuss anything else that you are concerned about during this time.

There will be no before-school or after-school childcare available while we are in this temporary situation. If you have already paid for our before-school or after-school childcare for this term, let us know if you would prefer a refund or for it to be 'rolled over' to when the building is open to all pupils again.



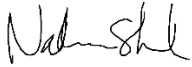
If your child qualifies for free school meals, we will be giving our food parcels on Wednesday. Please come to the school office between 11am and 12pm for your food parcel.

We do not have an end date to this temporary situation yet, but we hope it will be relatively soon. Please know that we will continue to monitor the situation as the week progresses and will keep you updated as much as we can.

This has been an extremely difficult decision for all those involved and absolutely not one which has been taken lightly; however we do believe it to be the right one at this time.

If anyone has any questions or queries, our admin team will be in school tomorrow and so will I.

Many thanks for your continued help and support. We will get through this together.



Nadeem J Shah  
Headteacher

### **Key Worker and Vulnerable Pupil Childcare**

As you will be aware, we were planning/preparing in case something like this happened and sent out application forms for childcare to all families earlier this week. The deadline for returning these request forms is 9am tomorrow morning (Monday January the 4<sup>th</sup>).

The unions have been clear in their directions to their members in this regard as well. They have agreed to volunteer their time to facilitate this vital childcare, as long as the numbers are suitably low (no more than 10% of pupils). In our school, this would be no more than 24 pupils across the whole school. If we go over this 10% figure, we risk losing the staff from volunteering completely, meaning no childcare would be facilitated at all.

Therefore we will have to be more stringent in the criteria for determining which children receive a place and we will initially prioritise frontline emergency workers (NHS, Fire Service, Police etc). Some families who accessed our childcare over the summer may not receive a place this time and some families, where one parent qualifies and another doesn't, may also not receive a place.

Any child who currently has an Education Health Care Plan, any child who is currently receiving support from Social Care and any child who is currently classed as 'Looked After' also qualifies for a place in our childcare, as they are identified as being 'vulnerable'.

Our admin team will confirm our childcare places with families tomorrow afternoon.

If your child is allocated a place in our childcare, please be aware of the following circumstances:

- The children will be staying in their 'bubble groups' and have the following timings:  
Bubble Group 1 – FS1/FS2/Year 1 drop off at 8.30am and collection at 3.00pm (based in the Nursery)  
Bubble Group 2 – Years 2/3/4 drop off at 8.40am and collection at 3.10pm (based in Class 3)  
Bubble Group 3 – Years 5/6 drop off at 8.50am and collection at 3.20pm (based in Class 6)
- They must come with their own packed lunch and water bottle each day.
- Children will come to school in their uniforms most days and PE kits on PE days. You will be informed if it is a PE day.
- They will also access lots of their online learning while in school.

