

6th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

FAO of Key Workers and parents/carers of vulnerable pupils

I am writing to update you on the arrangements for your child during this current lockdown. I apologise for not writing sooner, things have been rather hectic!

Firstly, I can confirm that your children are a credit to you all; they are behaving impeccably and engaging fully with their lessons.

It is noticeable that we have more pupils in school than I would have expected, and more than we had during the last lockdown. We will do whatever we can to support them to the best of our ability, however, my staffing resources are becoming increasingly stretched.

Our role is to remain open for all pupils who are entitled to a place in school. As many of you are aware from the last lockdown, we take this responsibility extremely seriously and make every effort to fulfil this crucial role to the best of our ability.

However, I hope you understand that large in-school numbers will have a detrimental impact on the quality of both the in-school as well as the remote learning provision and support that I can offer for all pupils. Staff cannot be in 2 places at once, they too may have to isolate and of course are at increased risk of contracting the illness at any time.

If you are able to support us by reducing the time your child needs to be in school, that would help both the school and our entire community. We are all acutely aware that the more bodies we have in school, the greater the risk of Covid transmission among pupils, teachers and families. Please help us if you can by keeping your child at home.

If you are able to reduce attendance, please notify Mrs Deas (KS2) or Mrs Davison (KS3).

I am not at the point of limiting attendance, and I hope with your continued support that will not become necessary.

In order to reduce staffing in school, I do need to make some small changes to the day.

You will be aware that our canteen is closed. For those of you in receipt of free school meals, we have arranged for you to receive vouchers. I would therefore ask that all children attend with their own packed lunch.

All pupils will be having their lunch at the same time. Please be reassured they will remain in their own bubbles and not share any facilities.

As of Monday 11th January, we will be asking pupils to arrive and go home at the same time. This will mean an earlier start for our KS3 pupils. I would like all children on site by 8.35 am, and school will end for all pupils at 3.00 pm.

We are still open at 8.00 for those who need to drop off early. Library club will be open until 4.30 pm on Monday – Thursday, and 4.00 pm on Friday.

Again, I would ask for your support in doing everything you can to not use this extended provision. I am doing all I can to reduce staff and pupil numbers on site. If you do need to use this provision, please be aware the supervision will be very “light touch”. I will ensure they remain in year group bubbles but they will not have any direct staff input.

All pupils must bring in their own earphones every day. We cannot lend them our earphones, and they will not be able to participate fully in lessons without them.

Finally, pupils do not have to attend in school uniform. There was much happiness when I told them this yesterday!

I hope this information helps to clarify our current arrangements. I may need to make further changes should the situation dictate. If that is the case, I will give you as much notice as I can.

Please continue to engage and feedback to us as much as possible. We are here to help and support wherever we can.

I hope you all remain safe and well.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P J Bowers', with a stylized flourish at the end.

P J Bowers
Headteacher