



INSPIRE NURTURE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

*Working **together** to be the **best** that we can be.*

Happiness

Perserverance

Resilience

Kindness

Friendship

Respect

4.1.20

Re: Prime Minister's Briefing

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have spent much of today working relentlessly to try and put provision in place to support staff members following their Union advice and to help as many families as possible.

Following on from the announcement this evening, we are **unable to continue with these plans**.

On Tuesday 5th January 2021, any child who was due to work at home should focus on their work pack that was sent at the start of term. They can also access the online learning provision in place e.g. Spelling Shed. They will be able to join their peers via Teams for registration and a 'catch up' in the morning and afternoon.

There will be **no formal online lessons** on Tuesday as staff will now need to ensure that new work packs are printed and in place for a greater number of families working at home from Wednesday – Friday this week and for next week so that they can be collected from school tomorrow.

Those families who were offered a place in school today but who **are not** a key worker and whose child does not fall into the Vulnerable / SEND category are still permitted to come to school **on Tuesday only** if they feel the time is **vital to allow them to arrange childcare and provision at home from Wednesday onwards**. SEND and Vulnerable children **are** permitted to attend as agreed.

The announcement changes this **from Wednesday** when **ONLY Vulnerable Children and Key Worker Children will be allowed in school**.

The Class Teacher or school Administrator will be in touch tomorrow to re-confirm that your SEND / Vulnerable child has a place. There are many children on this list but the reasons are private and confidential so please do not make assumptions about the reasons children are in school while others are at home.

A **NEW Parent Mail form will be sent tomorrow** to find out the **Key Worker status** of parents and to ask if a place is required. *Please tick YES even if you are isolating but will require a place once your isolation period is over.*

Headteacher: Miss Z Pickard

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Please refer to the information here and consider the category you may fall into ahead of answering the Parent Mail tomorrow. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Children have been described by the Prime Minister this evening as being vectors for transmission into the wider community and that children should work online away from school until February Half Term at least. It is preferable, therefore, to keep children who are not Vulnerable, SEND or Key Worker Children at home as much as possible.

We are keen to support Key Worker families who are both working from home as we understand that sometimes completing important work or having meetings is difficult with young children at home. We hope that we can work together to offer some flexibility to allow children to be in school when a particular work deadline arises. Positive communication with school via the admin address will be key to this working. **Where possible, however, families who have someone at home should try to keep their child / children away from school following the online learning and paper based work outlined by the Class Teacher instead.**

I understand that the decision the Prime Minister has made will feel disappointing for some families after we have worked relentlessly today to accommodate a wider range of personal situations that the announcement now permits.

Unfortunately, the matter is now out of our hands and we must stick rigidly to the guidelines.

Links for online registration will be sent tomorrow to those who don't already have one.

To recap, from Wednesday 6th January 2021, we will **ONLY** be providing a place for children who are classed as Vulnerable / SEND, or if they are the child of at least one Key Worker.

Please note that anything in place is subject to change with any new advice released from the DfE / Government.

Please communicate any questions **via the school admin address** and these will be answered in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Zoe Pickard
Headteacher