

Email to all Parents and Carers sent 3/1/21

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you today while it is still unclear as to whether schools will be open tomorrow or not. However, we are currently assuming that we will be open tomorrow and I am planning for a return in line with that.

We have always prioritised the health and safety of pupils and staff throughout the pandemic. Our measures have been in place in line with both Public Health England and government advice. With the current situation which sees a more aggressive form of the virus prevalent in our area, we are looking at ways that we can further increase our protective measures, and this is what I am writing to you about.

Firstly, please ensure that children are dressed very warmly for school. While we will, of course, have the heating on, it will also be important that we have windows open at a time of year when we would usually be closing all doors and windows against the very cold air outside. I suggest that children layer up and wear their uniform over the top. School uniform is still expected but extra vests or tee shirts would be appropriate.

Drop off and pick up - please ensure that you only visit the school if you absolutely have to. We need to reduce the amount of people - children and adults - gathering on the site (or anywhere) as this is when transmission is most likely to happen. If you have been considering allowing children to make their own way to school, perhaps with a classmate, maybe this is the time to give it a go? If siblings do not need to wait for each other then please do encourage them to make their own way to and from school. If you do not need to actually come to the playground but could drop children further away from the school grounds, this too would be worth considering for the time being. Obviously, I am not saying don't come - but I would ask you to consider if it is a necessity; at least while levels of the virus remain so high.

Please note that there will be no face-to-face meetings for parents/carers, external agencies or with school staff until further notice.

Whilst we have been largely successful in managing the school situation, we will also be making a few changes behind the scenes. We will work hard to ensure that no staff have to cross bubbles - this will be difficult to achieve but it's a good aim. We will switch assemblies to all being virtual with no children gathering in the hall at all. Staff will be encouraged to wear masks in communal areas and avoid groups gathering, such as in the staffroom. These will be difficult to achieve while also ensuring that school can still function but they will be basic guiding principles.

Whatever the outcome and whether we return to school fully tomorrow or in a more drawn out start to term, there are things we can do to greater protect one and another and our community. We want to do all we can to ensure that schools can stay open and your support in these above measures would go a long way to helping with this.

Best wishes,  
Hugh Rawson  
Headteacher