5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Here we go again!

The Government have announced a further school closure for all pupils **'except those whose parents' work is defined as critical to the COVID-19 response'**.

It is essential that we limit the spread of the virus through unnecessary contact. As said previously, this is a public health emergency, and we have to consider everybody throughout these very difficult times. Nobody anticipated back in March that we would be locked down again 9 months after the first occasion. The only way to stop this virus spreading further is by stopping human movement.   The virus cannot move on its own. We have to make very difficult decisions about which pupils can, and cannot, attend – this is not only for the safety of the children and the staff, but for the Nation as a whole. We know that our decisions are not always popular and may add stresses at an already difficult time. We are also parents, and are facing exactly the same difficulties as you!

As a school, we will be providing extensive home learning opportunities for the vast majority of our children. For those children coming in to school, the children will be expected to access the same home learning provided by their class teacher but will be supported to do so by a small TA team. (Two per bubble) No teachers will be working on site except for our EYFS teachers. I will be in school every day, as will our family support workers.

We will be making contact daily with pupils who are not engaging with their home learning. If this is consistent, we will be identifying them as **vulnerable** and a discussion will have to take place as to how additional support can be provided. If you believe your child will not be able to access home learning for any reason, please contact the school at your earliest opportunity.

The government is yet to give us any information about children entitled to free school meals. As soon as we have this, we will of course pass on any information we have.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Keri Baylis