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We are an Operation Encompass School

Monday 4th January 2020

School Closure for National Lockdown

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As I am sure you are all aware, the government has announced that from tonight we will be moving in to another National Lockdown which includes the closure of schools to all pupils except critical and key workers and vulnerable children. The Prime Minister's announcement was the first we have heard that schools were going to be closed which as you can imagine now brings with it a whole new level of complications for us.

We are as frustrated as you because as you are aware we have spent today preparing to open the school tomorrow to as many pupils as possible which we now can't do. If we had known about this closure in advance we would have spent today preparing to receive critical and key worker and vulnerable children into school from tomorrow instead.

Currently, we have received no information from the government or Department of Education (DfE) with regards to schools requirements for this lockdown. This includes how many critical workers, key workers and vulnerable children we will be able to accept. The Prime Minister made reference to Nursery's being kept open but from guidance in place in London, I believe Nursery's attached to primaries are to follow primary school guidance. However, this is again information that I need to have confirmed, and I am awaiting clarification from the Local Authority (LA) who I have already contacted and spoken to tonight following the announcement.

I have also spoken to our Chair of Governors and it has been decided that we need to take tomorrow to prepare the school for this lockdown and use the time to allocate critical and key worker and vulnerable children places, as well as waiting for further guidance to come out from the DfE and LA as to how to proceed. **Therefore school will be shutting to all pupils tomorrow.**

Now we are in a full Lockdown some parents who have requested key worker places may not need a place now as their work requirements may have changed with this announcement. If this is the case please can you let us know. I will be contacting parents tomorrow about critical and key worker places and will be providing additional information on how these places will be allocated and any further evidence we require.

All I can do is apologise but this is completely outside of my control and I share your frustrations.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Steele

Acting Head Teacher



