

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I was hoping to be writing a more upbeat letter to you at the start of a new term and indeed a new year however, recent developments in the ongoing battle to contain the spread of COVID-19 have rather dampened this.

As you may be aware, following the statements made yesterday, **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020**, by the Government, that in order to help contain the community transmission of COVID-19, some restrictions to primary education settings are required in certain areas. Milton Keynes is one of many local authorities across the country where these restrictions apply and therefore primary schools in Milton Keynes will not open to all children on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. These local measures will be kept under review and will be reviewed again by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

As you can appreciate this is extremely short notice for us all and myself and the Senior Leadership team are meeting today (Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020) to set out our plan for partial re-opening and home learning and will communicate this with you as soon as possible but in order for you to be able to plan ahead we can inform you that the school will not open to all children, as intended, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The Government have stated that there will be school provision for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children (see list attached).

**We ask that all parents/carers complete the questionnaire (sent separately) as soon as possible so we can ascertain how many children will be returning to school next week (week commencing Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021).**

For those children who are not returning to school we will be setting up home learning in the form of live online zoom lessons and home learning packs and we will forward details of these as soon as possible. It is our intention that these will commence from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

We understand that this is an anxious and worrying time for everyone and as always we will be here to support our families, children and staff. We appreciate your continued trust in us and would like to thank all those parents who have already sent messages of support, it is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Shotton  
Executive Head

### **Critical workers**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

### **Health and social care**

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

### **Education and childcare**

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

### **Key public services**

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

### **Local and national government**

This only includes:

- those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies

### **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution

- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

### **Public safety and national security**

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

### **Transport**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

### **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

## Vulnerable children and young people

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services
  - adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers
  - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  - others at the provider and local authority's discretion