

5th January 2021

Coronavirus - COVID-19 - Update

Re: Lockdown 3

Dear Parent and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy Christmas.

From Friday and over the weekend all Head Teachers worked with Louise Gilbert and Sarah Sanson and I, resolving logistics to ensure every school was ready to open yesterday. A number had planned INSET days, but all staff returned to work, and we opened. Having worked through all the communication channels and made our organisational arrangements we each watched the announcement from the Prime Minister last evening, working late into the night to move to partial closure and switch to online learning. I requested that Heads of School and Head Teachers contact you with the arrangements for today. Thank you for your understanding this morning in working with schools.

For this week at least all the schools will remain open, we have enough staff to keep everywhere open currently, only Trenode has been closed today due to staffing. If things change and we need to move to the hub model we adopted before we will write to you again with timescales.

We will continue to follow all the government guidance, which is updated daily, currently there is no new guidance from the Department for Education about today but following the announcement last evening we are working a partial opening to children of key workers and those children classed as vulnerable. The key worker list will no doubt be updated but I have included definitions in the link below last updated 31/12/20.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

All the school Heads and I are very grateful for your support, lots of them reported today how kind everyone had been following a drastic switch in our operation today – thank you.

We will of course continue to offer school meals; this may well transition next week to a ‘hub approach’ with meals delivered from the larger school kitchens to the other schools. Central Team staff are working with external caterers to ensure we have sufficient coverage and a reviewed menu for this scenario. As things stand, there is no new guidance on how meal vouchers will work but we assume this will be in the same way as previously organised. Until we are provided with more information from the government, we will be offering food parcels to those eligible for free school meals that are not in attendance at school. If for any reason you find yourself in need please make yourself known to head teachers in schools who will do everything they can to help.

As information is made available, we will share it with you and if things need to change, we will keep you informed as best we can.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Massey and everyone at Bridge Schools