



Upper Beeding Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs R Linford

Monday 4th January 2021

School Closure

Dear Parent / Carer

As you are aware the current national situation is causing considerable concern for the safety of our school community and unfortunately is now impacting on the ability to maintain the opening of Upper Beeding Primary School for all children. We all want our children in school learning and happy to be with their friends, but the increased transmission rate of the new variant strain in this area has caused significant concern for everyone's safety.

As of late this afternoon I am unable to safely staff the school for it to be open for all children. This is as a result of staff isolation, vulnerable staff, and staff invoking the right to a safe work environment based on Section 44 of the Employment Rights Act 1996. Based on SAGE medical information, I cannot guarantee to staff, pupils and the wider community that, despite the measures we have put in place, the school is a safe working environment. **Therefore tomorrow Tuesday 5th January we will be closed to all children** while I gather the necessary information to ensure I can re-open the school safely just for children of critical workers and also vulnerable children on **Wednesday 6th January.**

I understand that this will cause mixed feelings among families, some relieved and some frustrated, at the short notice and the impact it will have with work and home schooling. Please believe me this decision has not been made lightly and is a last resort to try to do what is best to keep everyone safe in our whole school community.

We will be able to offer limited spaces to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers from Wednesday 6th January. This will be run differently to the previous lockdown as we will keep the children in their super bubble groups. **If both parents are critical workers as defined on the Tier 4 Government list**, your children will be given priority for supervised places at school. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

This provision is limited so I would ask that you only use it if there is absolutely no alternative. The children in school will be supported and supervised to access the same online remote learning being provided for all children.

If you wish to apply for a critical worker place for your child/ren, please complete the attached application to this letter.

I am sorry to have to let you know with such little notice. This is an incredibly difficult and complex time for everyone and I really appreciate the continued support from you.

We will contact you tomorrow to provide more information about remote learning which will be in place on Wednesday 6th January for Years 1 to 6 on Google Classroom, and the VLE for Reception.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time.

Best wishes, Becky Linford, Head Teacher

