



4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a good holiday with your families and have kept well and safe. As you will be aware a great deal has happened over the Christmas break regarding the increase in coronavirus cases and how a new variant of the virus has become easier to catch. Thankfully, the medical profession are telling us that it is no more dangerous for children and that it will not impact on the effectiveness of the vaccine.

However, it is evident that the next few months are going to be very difficult as the Government set out how, as a country, we are to control the virus. This may or may not include primary school closures at some point. Along with this, teachers' unions have been pressing their members to deliver their teaching remotely. Put all this together and there is a confusing picture in the news.

As a headteacher, along with the leadership team, we have worked tirelessly throughout this pandemic to provide for your children, believing that children are best educated in school. It is what we love to do. All staff worked extremely hard throughout the autumn term and we were able to keep all 'bubbles' open. Unfortunately though, at the start of the spring term we are experiencing some staffing shortages and I apologise for the late notice yesterday to Years 3, 4 and 5, whose classes needed to close. Deciding to close classes is never easy and always has to come down to safety.

From tomorrow, we are able to reopen Year 4. Unfortunately, I am unable to give a timeline for any of the other class closures but can promise you that as soon as we can, those classes will also be reopened.

If your child's class is closed, there will still be provision for key workers' children and vulnerable children with social workers. Please contact us if you feel your child is vulnerable and we will do our very best to support. We will also be contacting key families who meet this criteria. Logins will be sent via text for your children to access their class work, workbooks will be provided to all children and laptops/dongles to families that need them. We are also putting a package of food together for free school meal children not in school once a week. The office will contact you with details of when to collect these whilst your class is at home. If you are a family that is isolating or in difficulty, we will deliver these things to you.

Headteacher: Teresa Shrestha

Email:- admin@windmillacademy.co.uk

www.windmillacademy.co.uk

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If your child's class is in school then their clubs/ catch up lessons, start and finish times remain the same. If your child's class is closed but they are here as a key worker/vulnerable child, then their start and finish times are the same as usual but they will not have any after school sessions. Breakfast club remains open for those children already enrolled, so long as they are also attending school during the day with their class or a keyworker/vulnerable child.

We continue to enhance and develop our hygiene procedures to make school as safe as we possibly can. I cannot stress enough how important it is that parents/carers visiting the school wear masks and thank those of you that have been following this request. Parents should socially distance from one another and please do not bring children up the ramps to the Key Stage One classrooms.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Teresa Shrestha

Headteacher



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