

# Meadowside Community Primary & Nursery School



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Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I am sure that you will have watched the Prime minister's announcement this evening and heard the news that **schools have closed with immediate effect**. Therefore, we will be partially closing our doors again unfortunately from tomorrow. This is done with a heavy heart but also with the upmost concern in ensuring that we are keeping our children, staff and families as safe as can be with the increase in transmission and infection rates across our areas.

The current situation is once again unprecedented and is changing daily. None of us anticipated tonight's announcement at 8 o'clock in the evening would lead to us closing by tomorrow. Here is the key information:

- Our nurseries remain open to all children – BUT IF YOU CAN KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFELY AT HOME, YOU SHOULD.
- We will now only be able to accept **Critical Worker Children** and **Vulnerable Children** from Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 into school.
- If your child meets the criteria to take a Critical Worker place, please complete Mr Clay's survey on ClassDojo tonight. Your child will then be able to attend school tomorrow. The Senior Leadership Team will tomorrow be checking through the information you have provided in the survey and will contact you about confirming your child's place.
- Tonight, Mrs Stokes is contacting parents of children who qualify as Vulnerable Children so they will be able to attend school tomorrow.
- Critical Worker Children and Vulnerable Children should arrive at the usual staggered start times tomorrow. They will enter school through their usual classroom door and will be met by their usual classroom teams.
- The One-Way System must still be used at the beginning and end of day.
- **For those children at home**, tomorrow's remote learning activities will be more basic to allow for teachers to plan in more detail and prepare for the rest of the week.



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As we move forward, it is important that we remember these things:

- Schools are being asked to remain open for only those children who absolutely need to attend school.
- Children who are at home will be doing the same activities and lessons as those children who are in school. Teachers will be planning for the whole class as normal and the activities will be the same.

The government are clear in that their objective is to have a very small minority of pupils attending school as the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society thus reducing the strain on the NHS. Guidance just released can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

**It is crucial that where pupils can remain at home safely, they should. The purpose of closing schools is to support "social distancing" and the most recent advice is for people to stay at home in order to limit the spread of the virus at this crucial time of a national emergency.**

We know that school being partially closed will put great strain on the lives of many of you (and also many of the staff). We are here to support you – please contact us if we can support you in any way. Let's all hope that this action and the fact that the vaccinations have started again, significantly reduces the rate of infection so that when we reopen, we can stay open and get back to giving children the education and school experience they deserve.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our amazing staff who have come into school today, and since the onset of this virus with smiles and positivity, despite their own fears and anxieties, particularly after all the speculation over the weekend. They have all continued to work tirelessly to ensure 'normality' has remained in school since our return in September and that the children felt safe, happy and carried on with their learning.

Also, thank you to parents and carers for your continued support and patience through what has been such a worrying and challenging time for all of us. We will continue to update you on any developments as quick as we can on **ClassDojo**. Please contact the school office if you are not set up on ClassDojo yet as this will keep you updated on all of our school news throughout lockdown.

We will miss seeing all of the children again during our closure but we hope that Meadowside families and our community stay safe and well.

Hope to see you soon,



Mr S Wright  
Headteacher

