



The Orchards Primary Academy
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4th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure that you are aware, there has been a great deal of press coverage recently regarding the return to school for primary children.

The teaching unions have been very active over the weekend and I now have a number of staff members who have written to me to express their concern over the planned re-opening.

This has led to me having to make very last-minute decisions regarding how we can safely open our school to children as the DfE have requested.

To this end, I regret to inform you that school will be closed to pupils, other than those who are key worker or classed as vulnerable, from Tuesday 5th January 2021. This will be reviewed in line with our risk assessments, on 14th January 2021. This is to allow us to plan for the week beginning 18th January 2021.

The list of children who are deemed as vulnerable or key workers, can be accessed at this link:

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)

If you feel your child falls in to these categories, please inform the school office on the enquiry email above.

There will be a limit to how many children we are able to take in each class so that we can ensure that social distance is maintained between staff and children, so places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Teachers have been asked to set home learning for all children who will be working from home. This can be accessed on DB Primary in the usual way. If you require any support with this, please call the school office and ask to speak to your child's class teacher.

I also regret to inform you that we will be unable to offer a breakfast or after school club service for the immediate term, due to staff being unable to work across bubbles. The senior leadership team will be reviewing this as a priority this week and will communicate with you as soon as we possibly can.

As you can imagine, this is not a decision that I have taken lightly, but with increased transmission rates and a new strain of covid-19, I must make the children's health and safety my absolute priority.

Thank you for your understanding,

Mrs Carrier
Head Teacher



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