



VERNON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Clumber Road
Poynton
Cheshire
SK12 1NW

Headteacher: J Carvell (Mrs)
Telephone: (01625) 872556
Fax: (01625) 858194

Website: www.vernonprimaryschool.com
Email: admin@vernonprimary.cheshire.sch.uk

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Closure:

As you are already aware, the Government announced late last night that schools in England are to close from today until at least February half term. We did not expect this news so soon and today all teachers will be working extremely hard to put plans in place.

The Government has requested for schools to stay open for the children of 'critical key workers' and for vulnerable children (either in receipt of an Educational Healthcare Plan or being supported by a Social Worker).

Critical Key Workers:

The Government has specified that 'parents whose work is **critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response**' can apply for a school place during this period of closure. This is a very specific definition that we are required to adhere to. As a school, we want to get the balance right, supporting parents who are in critical key worker roles to continue to work. However, this must be considered very carefully in order to keep children, families and staff safe during this pandemic.

The Prime Minister explained in his address to the Nation that the reason schools are being instructed to close is that although it is known that children are generally not seriously affected by Covid-19, schools do however act as vectors for transmission of the virus to spread between households. Therefore, it is extremely important for us to keep numbers of children in school as low as possible. We will be prioritising places carefully. This time, unlike the March lockdown, we are legally obliged to provide online remote learning within very specific guidelines. Teachers need to be available to do this within the working day and we are changing our staffing structure to facilitate both the remote learning and the teaching of vulnerable children and critical key workers' children.

A spider survey is being sent alongside this letter and we will also be asking parents to provide letters from employers as proof of critical key worker, in line with the Government's definition above. **Please email this to covid@vernonprimary.cheshire.sch.uk** This is essential for us to allocate places. **Please respond to the spider survey as soon as possible (but no later than 2.00pm today).**

I am appealing to your better nature and asking that if you have a member of your family or childcare bubble who is at home, then please do not request a place. Places in school are for those critical key workers who have to leave home for their jobs and have no alternative provision. The safest place for children and families to be at the moment is at home and this is why schools are closed.



Nobody else is quite like me'



Those eligible to send their child to school will be contacted directly and notified of specific arrangements. Unfortunately, I do not have the capacity at this time to respond to individual people's circumstances and I know that everyone, including my staff, are going to be trying their best to juggle home and work life. We all find ourselves yet again in a very difficult situation. I appreciate that there are going to be some people who will not be allocated places and I kindly ask for you to respect this decision, as it will not have been made lightly.

Safety at this time has to take priority over education and I am incredibly disappointed that I have not been able to welcome everyone back today.

I will also be sending a second letter today that will hopefully have a much more positive tone regarding remote learning and all the wonderful plans that my team are currently putting in place.

I am asking for your support once again and I would like to thank you so much for the positive emails I have already received since last night's sudden announcement.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J Carvell
Headteacher



Nobody else is quite like me'

