

4th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am sorry to be writing to you again so soon on the subject of school provision following the Christmas break. However, as you may have seen, the Prime Minister has this evening announced a new national lockdown because of rising infection rates of Covid-19 and to try to prevent the further spread of the virus.

As part of this, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in England, including our academy, are to be closed with immediate effect until at least the end of half term in February, except for children of key workers or vulnerable children.

If you or your partner is a key worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the school will remain open (8:45 – 3:15), as now, and we look forward to seeing them in school tomorrow and beyond as normal for teaching and learning. Your child will access the same online teaching as their peers with supervised access to IT. Bookings for this provision should be made using the following link: <https://forms.gle/VRhFFCj1GzPXakFz8>

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school as safe as possible, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the safety measures in currently in place and will remain at our school:

- Everyone is expected to remain in their allocated bubbles
- Children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day

Please note we are trying to work with windows open in classrooms for ventilation. As the cold days have returned, and with the need for ventilation in mind, pupils may need a few more layers of clothing, such as sweatshirts, tights or leggings underneath skirts or plain fleeces without a hood or large brand logos. Children attending school should continue to wear school uniform.

For all other pupils, our school is closed until at least the end of the February half-term. High-quality remote learning will be provided to make sure they continue to receive a consistent education. We know that this places pressure on you at a difficult time but your support in helping your child engage with the remote learning packs as much as possible is so important and we are very grateful for it. Your child should access their google classroom on a daily basis from Tuesday 5th January. We will write to you tomorrow with more detail regarding the live teaching that will take place from Wednesday 6th January.

We will continue to stay in touch with you on this matter, and about your child's education. However, do let me know if you would like to discuss this matter, or if you require any support relating to these new arrangements.

The school office will be open to receive telephone communications tomorrow. However beyond this, all communication should come through enquiries@darfield.outwood.com. **Please do not email staff directly.**

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation. Please continue to take care and to stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Principal



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