



Coronavirus (COVID-19): Continued School Closure – Staffing and Safety

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, the government announced on 30th December that, whilst many primary schools will be opening on 4th January, there would be a number of schools in critical areas throughout the country where the coronavirus infection rate means that the opening of schools in those areas would need to be delayed.

Although Littlehampton was not in one of those areas, we are still required to ensure that our risk assessments make it safe enough for us to open our school to pupils during the current pandemic. Our risk assessments are fully reviewed by REACH2 Academy Trust leaders to ensure that all of the information is carefully considered so we act in the best interests of children and families.

Following a review of our risk assessment, I am writing to let you know that we are unfortunately unable to fully open the school at this time. This is because our risk assessment shows that we do not have enough available staff to operate the school effectively.

We will therefore only be opening schools to provide face-to-face education for those pupils who are vulnerable or from families of critical workers. For other pupils, we will provide remote learning and work that can be done at home.

Our school leaders along with Trust leaders will review our risk assessments on a daily basis with a view to re-opening the school when it is possible to do so. We hope to be able to let parents and carers know about next steps within 48 hours.

Face-to-Face Education

Although the school will be closed, we will still be able to provide face-to-face education for the following pupils who will be expected to attend school:

- Children of **critical workers**
- **Vulnerable** pupils: those with an EHCP, with a Social Worker, or other pupils deemed as potentially vulnerable due to personal circumstances.

These pupils should attend school as normal (same time, uniformed etc.) from Tuesday 5th January.

If you have filled in the keyworker form and have not received a phone call today to say that you do not fit the criteria, you will be eligible for a critical keyworker space. You will still need to fit the requirements, as stated in the form: all adults at home being critical keyworkers and to be working during school hours (Keyworkers will need to show evidence of being a critical keyworker on the first day to the teacher). Vulnerable children are all in the process of being called today.

Remote Learning

In addition, we will also continue to provide home learning activities for other pupils who are not at school. Information about our approach to remote learning will be provided in a separate letter.

Keeping Pupils Safe – Staying in Touch

Although the school will not be open for all pupils, we still want to stay in touch with you so that we can support our families.

Please call the school office on 01903 731774, or email office@whitemeadows.w-sussex.sch.uk if you have any questions or concerns that we can help with.

And finally...

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. We know that the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic are not yet over, but with your help we are determined to continue to do the very best for all our children throughout this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,



Luisa Gould
Executive Headteacher