

All Saints Bedworth C of E Primary School & Nursery

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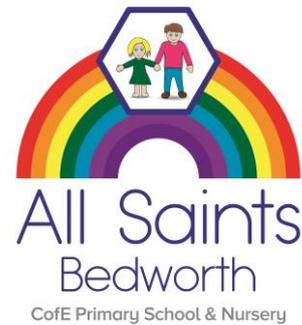
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Executive Headteacher: Mr Chris Errington

Head of School: Mrs Kerry O'Grady



“Learning and growing together to be the best that we can be”

UPDATE ON THE REOPENING OF ALL SAINTS FROM 5TH JANUARY 2021

Dear parents/carers,

You will all no doubt be aware of the current discussion in the media about the reopening of primary schools to all pupils this week, and that a number of high profile organisations such as SAGE and the Teaching and Support Staff Unions are continuing to request a change in Government position as they feel that schools within Tier 4 are not safe to open to all pupils whilst the infection rate is so high. The most recent advice from SAGE is that schools should not open in January other than for the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils, as the new variant of Covid-19 spreads more easily in young children.

I have held discussions with teaching and support staff today, and they have made the majority decision to follow the advice from their Unions. Staff do not feel that it is safe for them to return to teaching or supporting full classes with up to 30 households and 3 staff members in their classes so will be exercising their right not to attend a workplace that is potentially unsafe. They are concerned about the risk attending work within a Tier 4 school poses to them and the children in their classes, and also the risks this poses to you all should children bring the virus back to your households. I fully support this joint decision made by the staff here, and thank them for their professional engagement in these conversations and the fact that they are putting pupils and families at All Saints at the heart of their decision making.

All Saints will therefore be closed to the majority of pupils from Tuesday 5th January, and teaching and learning will move online for the majority of pupils. If you are able to keep your child/children at home, this is the safest place for them to be whilst we remain in Tier 4. However, if your child is considered vulnerable or you are a key worker who works during school hours, you will be able to request a place for your child/children to continue to attend as key worker / vulnerable pupil. Further information about the criteria for this are contained towards the end of this letter – **you will need to inform us if you want a place for your child by 6.00pm today** using the online form here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-hEVTlm6ekOhnanlPyn9sCxE_tF8x-NEsUUprcCLjq1UNjNNOU1HM0RHUFRSTNGUEZRSUxNV0RPUi4u

I apologise for the very short notice this gives you, but this situation has developed very rapidly over the weekend and this morning. There will be further staff discussions throughout the course of the day to put plans in place to support pupils learning at home alongside the key worker / vulnerable pupils groups – further details will be sent to you once they have been finalised.

Some information I am able to confirm at the moment is as follows:

- The key worker / vulnerable pupil groups will start from **Tuesday 5th January**
- We are not entirely sure how long this provision will need to continue for – but will review this on a weekly basis and keep you informed via Dojo. We will continue to follow advice and guidance. We anticipate it will be for a period of at least two weeks.

- School timings for key worker / vulnerable pupils who attend will be **9.00am to 3.00pm regardless of their year group** (unless your child is in Nursery and only attends for 15 hours – their times will be 9.00am to 12.00pm each day)
- Key worker / vulnerable pupils groups will be kept to a maximum of 15 pupils
- Pupils who attend in the key worker / vulnerable groups may not only be grouped with pupils in their own year group (we may need to combine a maximum of 3 year groups to support staffing). We will minimise mixing where we can, and aim to keep children in their year groups where possible
- **Before and After School clubs will not** take place whilst the school is only open to key workers and vulnerable pupils to avoid mixing pupils further
- Parents of pupils who are learning at home will receive a timetable and home learning pack by the end of the day on Tuesday 5th January
- **The 'home learning offer' for pupils at home will start on Wednesday 6th January**
- The home learning offer will be similar to what has previously been offered when class bubbles have closed, with a combination of some daily face-to-face sessions with class teacher / TAs and some independent learning to do and upload to Class Dojo Portfolios
- **There is an expectation that all pupils who are learning at home will attend the daily sessions online and will also upload their work to their Portfolio**
- We have limited access to laptops that we are able to provide to families to support home learning. If your child would benefit from this, please contact Mrs Greenway or the school office.
- Pupils at home who are in receipt of Free School Meals will continue to be provided with the equivalent of one daily meal – this will probably be in the form of a food parcel which will need to be collected.
- Pupils attending the key worker / vulnerable pupils provision will be able to purchase a school meal if they wish (free school meals pupils will get this anyway)

Criteria for attending school as a key worker / vulnerable pupil:

- **Vulnerable pupil:** pupil on a Child Protection Plan, Child in Need Plan or Early Help Plan; pupil on the school's Special Educational Needs register
- **Key worker pupil:** Key worker professions include all emergency services staff, NHS staff, care worker staff, education staff, social workers, essential public services staff, postal services staff, production and distribution of essential products staff (including food)

I once again apologise for the short notice given to you, and appreciate that this may cause some difficulties. Rest assured that all decision are taken with the best interests of children at the heart. I would urge you not to add negative comments to Dojo or social media, and to contact me directly – I can be contacted today on **07467 330818** should you wish to discuss this further.

Please ensure you have completed the online form if you wish to request a place for your child in one of the key worker / vulnerable pupil groups.

I thank you for your continued support in very challenging times.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs K. O'Grady
Head of School