

4th January 2021

Dear Families,

This evening the Prime Minister announced that the UK's coronavirus alert level has increased due to the speed with which the new variant of the virus is spreading and is now at five, the highest level, which means that there is a risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed. A new national lockdown will be in place from 6th January. The Government instruction is to stay at home, with extreme measures enforced by law, while vaccines are rolled out.

This means there will not be a full return to school for all primary children tomorrow as we had expected: all Primary and Secondary schools and colleges will be closed.

From Tuesday 5 January Walls court Farm Academy will be open **only for the children of critical workers and those classed as vulnerable** to attend on site. We will provide remote learning to be completed at home for all other children. We will contact families of vulnerable children tonight or tomorrow to confirm places.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer breakfast and after school club until further notice.

Critical workers

The definition of critical workers is attached at the end of this letter. To request for your child to attend school because you are a critical worker and will be going to work during this lockdown period please complete the form at this link.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ViObpySMIkM0IMbibQtAkai48FjyYGJFfWOM5wVI8NURjBWUkV CV1Q0WjJRMDQ0MDM3WDc1V0ZMMS4u>

If you have previously indicated that you are a key worker during the first lockdown then your child can attend. We have those registers and we will be checking at the gate so please allow a few minutes longer at drop off time. Please do complete the form as well so that we can update our records as the new form contains more detail. If you are no longer a key worker please do not send your child in. We are aware that families in Oak Learning Zone will not have given us this information so please complete the form and also tell the member of SLT on the gate.



Remote learning

Remote Learning is available for all children who are learning from home. You can access this learning from the year group website through the 'Daily Remote Learning' link at the top of the page. We will be re-sharing the guidance for Remote Learning tomorrow.

We do have a small number of devices available but we are in the process of being allocated further devices – details of these will follow.

Free School Meals

If you are entitled to benefits related free school meals, we will be in touch soon with further details.

Finally, I want to say how utterly devastated we are to find ourselves in this position again. Our guiding principle is to keep children safe, fed and learning and we will do our utmost to ensure that this happens. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

Sue Kelham
Principal

Current Government definition of 'Critical Workers'

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below.

Health and social care

Doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, other frontline health and social care staff, those working in health and social care supply chain

Education and childcare

Childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers, specialist education professionals

Key public services

Justice system, religious staff, charity workers, those responsible for managing deceased, public service broadcasters

Local and national government

Administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of Covid-19 response and delivery of EU transition, essential public services

Food and other necessary goods

Those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery, and provision of other key goods e.g. hygiene, medicine

Public safety and national security

Police and police support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel, fire and rescue service employees, National Crime Agency staff, border security, prison and probation staff

Transport and border

Those who keep air, water, road, rail passenger and freight transport modes and supply chains operational

Utilities, communication and financial services

Essential financial service staff, oil, gas, electricity, water sectors, IT and data sector and primary industry supplies to Covid-19 response, civil nuclear, chemical, telecoms staff, postal services and delivery, payment providers, waste disposal sectors.

For further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>