



Willerby Carr Lane Primary School

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Chair of Governors: Mr R Dickinson

5 January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

Operation of School while Technically 'Closed'

Firstly, thank you all for being so amazingly positive, resilient and supportive in your response to an unimaginably late call by the Government. (And I thought I was safe writing to you at 5pm on Monday evening!). We were devastated by the news, although we understand that there is a national need to close.

I must also thank the whole staff team for responding so determinedly in getting organised for today and for helping to get our key messages out to you at such a late hour last night.

I'm sorry for the difficulties in communication last night – unsurprisingly, the 'Teachers2Parents' text and email system, that is used by thousands of schools across the country, went into meltdown. We were left relying on Twitter, Class Dojo and parents themselves to help disseminate our plans.

We are now looking at our school operation up to February half-term. Although our school is technically 'closed' we had 152 pupils attend school today. In total, we have 232 pupils registered on our Key Worker and Vulnerable children list out of a school population of 420 (i.e. 55%). This is close to the total number of pupils in an average sized Primary School. Whilst we are pleased to be able to offer face-to-face education to so many pupils at school, we are also concerned that this may limit the effectiveness of reducing the risk of transmission in our community. I do not want to dissuade any children from coming to school who have a right to a place but, at the same time, I want to make clear the bigger picture and continuing risk this presents. If parents prefer, then their key worker registered children can stay at home and take part on Google Classroom; if they do so, they would not lose their key worker registration.

In school, we are operating with one teacher per year group, teaching face to face lessons each week to the pupils. The other year group teacher will be running Google Classrooms. The teachers will switch over each week to allow all pupils to work with their normal class teacher every other week. The support staff will variously work either in the classroom or on Google Classroom.

Google classroom will operate in the same way as in the Autumn Term. There will be a Google Meet at 9.00am and 3.00pm. Tasks, activities and recorded lessons will be allocated for each day. Year group staff will also try to make a direct phone call to parents/children each week. Work on Google classroom will mirror the work in school.

As I said yesterday, for children attending school, the safe systems of working we have in place, together with our local response protocol and incidence management system, will ensure we continue to work together to minimise the impact of CoVid-19 on both pupils and staff. It is also down to us as staff, children, parents and community to do everything we can to reduce our risk of transmission outside of school. I would urge everyone in our community to follow the national **Hands, Face, Space** directions in our daily lives, including when gathering outside school, at drop off and pick up times.

It is still vital that we all continue to reduce the risk of bringing in coronavirus into school. As per Public Health England guidance, **if anyone in your household is exhibiting any symptoms, you must not send your children to school**, but should book a Coronavirus test. Depending on the timings of symptoms and your child's last day in school, this may avoid us having to send a whole year group home.

I will continue to keep you informed as we progress through the term (although hopefully not on a daily basis).

Thanks everyone for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Sean Smith
Headteacher