

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORATE

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DODFORD FIRST SCHOOL

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January 2021

Dear Parents,

Let me start by wishing you a belated Happy New Year, and hoping that the year ahead will be calmer than 2020.

As you are aware, the school is closed to pupils tomorrow (4th January) for a planned TE Day. Where normally we would focus on the curriculum, we will be spending much of the day reviewing our remote learning plans, as there is an emerging feeling that further disruption is likely to occur at home and school for a while yet.

Young children need to be in school, and as I write this, we still expect to open the school to children on Tuesday 5th January. However, the rising rates of COVID infection, and the emergence of the new more transmissible variant, mean that we have to be prepared for possible further closure of schools at some point.

Attached to this letter is an explanation of a number of things:

- the continued protective measures which will be in place in school
- how learning will be implemented in school for vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers
- how remote learning will be implemented at home for all other pupils
- information regarding when children should or should not be sent to school

In addition, the 'symptoms' list has been strengthened, and reinforces the message that children must not come to school with **any** illness until they are fully recovered. In the absence of full vaccination, the only way that Covid may be contained requires everyone to follow the Tier 3 guidance by:

- adults always wearing a mask when in the proximity of the school
- not mixing with others outside the school for any unnecessary reasons
- avoiding car sharing (i.e. children from different households should not travel in the same car)

We at the school are highly aware of the strain that the pandemic is putting on all of us, and we're really grateful for your continued support. If we can keep school open and life there and at home as normal as possible, our children will thrive. We will of course keep you informed as the situation develops.

Kind regards

Mrs L. Parkes