



Dear Families,

Happy New Year to all of you. I hope you were able to have a safe, happy and restful Christmas period even in these challenging times. Let's pray that 2021 brings renewed hope and positivity for us all. We will continue to be challenged by the virus and sadly I expect it to continue to disrupt our school life over the coming term at least, but as always with your support, we will do the best we possibly can for all of your children.

I am sure you will have seen that as well as the challenges of COVID 19, we also suffered in the recent awful weather. This led to a few inches of water flooding much of the downstairs of the school. The barn, gym, canteen, chapel, kitchen, reception, toilets and main ground floor corridors and offices were all under water and have suffered damage.

We have acted as quickly as possible to resolve these issues but this has been more challenging until the start of this week as many companies were not working until Tuesday. We have had a company visit this week that were allocated by the insurers to assess the damage and start the clean-up. They have removed all carpets and put dehumidifiers in to remove the water in the floors and walls.

They are returning Monday to assess the situation and hopefully confirm a day that they are able to perform the deep clean and sanitisation that will be needed to make the areas affected clean and safe. Once I have more clarity about this, I will be in touch to explain the impact.

I think it is highly likely that we will not be able to open safely to all pupils until at least Monday 11th January 2021. However, please be aware with the ever-changing nature of the pandemic, it is possible that the situation will change again in the next few days, as always, I will keep you updated of any changes I am made aware of as soon as possible.

Monday 4th January 2021 and Tuesday, 5th January school will be closed to all pupils, remote learning will be set during those days through Google classroom. This is likely to continue for the remainder of the week for all pupils except those children of critical workers who are in urgent need of support.

We still aim to at least accommodate pupils of critical care workers, from Wednesday January 6th to Friday January 8th. Please see the Vale letter attached previously which outlines the groups classified as Critical workers (Blue light workers, including NHS, Police and Fire service staff. Health and social care staff, including care workers. Frontline childcare or education staff). If you come into this category and have no alternative childcare arrangements available to you, then you can apply for a place for your child to attend school on those days.

If you wish to apply for your child to attend school on these days, **please email the progress leader of your child directly outlining why you need a place no later than 11am on Monday 4th January** so that we can review the number of applications, our staffing capacity and inform you whether we have been able to safely allocate a place. Late applications will not be considered for these days.

This provision will be an opportunity for your child to have a place to be supervised to complete the online work that has been set for them. They will work in a room in their relevant bubble area and will not mix with pupils outside of their year group. The canteen will not be available at this time so please ensure that they bring a packed lunch.

I wish to again thank you for your continued patience and support and, for communicating your appreciation to our staff in the most challenging of times. It was so heartwarming to receive so many offers of support to clean up after the flood from staff, parents and pupils, it simply summed up the community of SRG, thank you so much. I am sorry I was not able to reply to each offer but I was truly grateful.

I will be in touch during next week once we have more clarity about the next few weeks.

In the meantime, keep safe and well.

Kind regards.



David Blackwell
Headteacher