

Dear Parents

I am writing to inform you of the arrangements that I must make in the light of our closure today.

I have had a significant number of letters from school staff both yesterday and today informing me that they wish to follow their union advice and only be available to teach pupils who are classed as vulnerable and those of key workers.

School staff agree with everything that has been said about the importance of education; the ones who have sent letters to me view this as a temporary arrangement until further scientific advice can be given to address concerns over the new variant and increased transmission. They are not, in any way, implying that school have not followed safety measures but feel that due to the changing national picture regarding the new variant and rising hospital admissions, they need to take this action. Staff have a huge sense of purpose in their work educating and caring for their pupils but have their own family situations to also consider.

I thoroughly respect the decision of these staff whilst also respecting the views of others who may not feel this. As a school leader, I have to make a difficult decision in terms of providing adequate supervision for all pupils. The significant number of staff who have submitted such letters means that to avoid children crossing bubbles etc, Acre Hall will only be open to children whose parent/parents are classed as key workers – see attached document from the DFE website – and those who are included in the definition of ‘vulnerable children’. ‘Vulnerable’ children includes all children with an EHC plan both in mainstream school and our small classes and other children whom we class as vulnerable as they may have social care support. We will contact parents of children with social care support directly to offer school places.

This arrangement will be in place until Monday 18th January. If the situation changes prior to that, I will write to parents again.

If you are classed a key worker (from the list attached) you can send your child in to school as normal tomorrow – full uniform needed. PE kit to be worn on usual PE days. Breakfast club will be open as normal and ‘After Acres’ will be open as normal for these children. We already have information from last academic year regarding your classification as ‘key workers’. We do not have this for new nursery or reception class pupils as they were not here last academic year or for anyone who has changed jobs since then, so please send your child in if the ‘key worker’ definition applies and we will check that information with you at some point.

I am in the process of writing a full explanation of our remote learning plan for children who are not classed as ‘vulnerable’ or children of ‘key workers’ or who are classed as such but parents do not wish for them to attend school. I will send this to you later today.

I understand that the above arrangements will cause disruptions for parents and many of you will be concerned about how this affects your employment. I am happy to contact employers on your behalf to explain the situation if you would like me to do that.

Kindest Regards

Ashlea White