



Be the best you can be, every day

Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents

Further to my letter yesterday on the current situation in school, I write to you with an update.

I am sure you are aware that discussions continue regarding the current COVID situation and schools remaining open. You will also be aware that primary schools across the London region will not be opening as normal this week and several schools within Surrey have also taken the decision not to open.

We have been informed today (4th January 2021) by Trade Unions representing staff that some of their members do not feel they can work in whole class situations until further reassurances are provided by the Department for Education (DfE). The Trade Unions have advised their staff to contact Heads to inform them they do not feel that school is a safe workplace under Section 44 of the Employment Rights Act 1996.

As a result we deeply regret we will not be opening our school this week for pupils, other than for vulnerable or critical worker children.

Please be assured this decision has not been taken lightly but with some staff members also currently isolating we simply do not have enough staff to be able to keep the school open safely and adhere to all of the safety measures necessary.

I can only apologise that this communication comes at late notice and for the disruption this will cause to our families. However, I hope parents will understand the highly volatile and fast moving nature of the current situation and the emotional turmoil this has caused. I also understand this decision may cause annoyance and disappointment.

Remote Learning

Our priority is our pupils and ensuring we provide online and remote learning which is in line with the DfE guidance. Our Remote Learning Policy, which outlines our provision offer is available on the school website.

<https://www.northdowns.surrey.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=6120&type=pdf>

Learning and resources, including daily input from teachers, will be available via each child's class area on Teams from 9.00am tomorrow morning. We have been working hard over the last term to ensure that all of our families have access to online provision. However, if any of you are unable to access learning online please contact the school office by emailing admin4@northdown.surrey.sch.uk and they will ensure hard copies are made available for you to collect from school.

For any technical support in accessing Teams please email karen.blumire@northdowns.surrey.sch.uk or mandy.knapp@northdowns.surrey.sch.uk

Places for Children of key Workers

With regards to provision in school we will, as I say, offer places to children of key workers and vulnerable children. If you think your child is eligible and you would like to request a place please complete a request form using the link below. I am sure these places will be in great demand but will need to be allocated in line with the latest DfE guidance. If you would like to apply for one of these places please do so via the link below. Without completing this form and receiving email confirmation from school your child will not be able to attend.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9kuzfnh>

Please return this form by 3.00pm this afternoon.

Once again, we apologise for the disruption this may cause but thank you for your ongoing support and understanding. I will write again later in the week with a further update.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JL Douglass". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Mrs J L Douglass

Headteacher



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North Downs Primary School

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