

Thursday, January 28th 2021

Dear Parents,

I'm sure that many of you will have been following the news and have picked up on the statement regarding school closures, but for those of you who may not have had the chance to see it yet, we wanted to make sure everyone was as up to date as possible.

It has been rare, since the start of the pandemic, that schools have been provided with much clarity or advance notice, but we are pleased that we now have at least some certainty about what will be happening in the coming weeks (although we are, of course, disappointed that we won't have everyone back in school for a little while yet). The key announcements from parliament are as follows:

- The **earliest** schools might 'begin to re-open' will be Monday 8th March, which is the start of the third school week after the half-term holiday;
- There will be a plan/review set out on Monday 22nd February (the first day after the half-term holiday), with further updates;
- When the decision to return has been made, schools will get two weeks' notice of this.

Sadly, this means that we have at least four more school weeks of home-learning under the current arrangements. I know that this will be bitterly disappointing for many families and the children, but I hope that it provides some hope that there might be an end in sight, at least in terms of getting the children back into school.

We also received a clarification from the Department for Education (DfE) yesterday that schools would not be asked to open over half-term for children of critical workers as was the case in the first lock-down. We had already planned that this would be the case, but it has now been confirmed.

We will continue to do our very best to make the best provision possible for your child whether they are at home, learning or in school. We understand that this latest news for many adds an additional level of stress and if there is anything we can do to support you, then please do contact us. The wellbeing of your children and you is our primary concern.

We do hope to see you all again soon!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Bradley-Wyatt