

## SHINCLIFFE C. of E. (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher:  
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Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parents,

### Partial School closure from January 5th 2021

As you are no doubt aware from press reports there has been much discussion over the weekend regarding school closures. The situation has changed significantly since we finished term for Christmas two weeks ago.

The North East has been placed into Tier 4 restrictions, in line with London and other areas of the South East. Significant pressure is being brought to bear on Government to keep all schools in tier 4 closed initially for a period of two weeks in order to allow rates of transmission to drop. Cases of Covid are amongst the highest in the north east in High Shincliffe, Bowburn and the surrounding areas. Durham County Council have advised me that they are also pressing the Government to issue guidance to all schools in tier 4 to remain closed and provide remote learning until January 18th.

Due to the above local and national developments my staff have been advised by their unions and professional associations that they should not teach full classes at the present time as the risks to pupils, staff and communities from Coronavirus are too great. After completing a risk assessment, I have made the very reluctant but necessary decision to **close school to all but the children of key workers and those who are vulnerable**. This will be for 2 weeks initially. This decision has been made on the basis that we do not have the staffing to open safely to all pupils in school.

I fully understand how challenging this is for parents bearing in mind how late this notice is – I can only apologise. It is far from ideal and creates many challenges. I hope you all understand that this is not a decision we have taken lightly at all - far from it – it is the last resort. However, at the moment, we really feel that we had no choice. At all times my overriding consideration has to be the health and safety of pupils, their families, staff and the wider community.

Arrangements for Tuesday 5th January 2021:

- All children other than those of key workers and those classed as vulnerable (pupils with a social worker) should remain at home.
- Those who registered as key worker parents during the previous closures should email [shincliffece@durhamlearning.net](mailto:shincliffece@durhamlearning.net) as soon as possible in order to secure a key worker place if they require one. They do not need to complete any new paperwork as this has been retained in school. Please request a place

only if you have no other alternative for care. A full list of key workers can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>

- Parents of children in Reception Class who are key workers should complete the form attached to this document and email it back to school in order to secure a place.
- Parents of vulnerable children will be contacted by school today.
- Remote (online) learning activities for all year groups will be shared by staff via DB Primary from tomorrow. If anyone has any issues with accessing remote learning, please get in touch with school. Staff will be regularly checking DB Primary during the course of the school day to review children's learning. Please be aware that your child's teacher will also be involved in teaching those pupils still attending school so may not be able to respond immediately.
- Vulnerable children and children of key workers, please attend school as normal. Start and end times and collection arrangements will remain the same as before Christmas.
- We politely ask that all parents/carers involved in collecting or dropping children wear a mask or face covering and observe social distancing when moving around the sites. Children do not need to wear masks or face coverings in school.
- Children who are at home but are entitled to a free school meal will be provided with a packed lunch by school should it be required. Please email or phone school tomorrow morning before 10 am if you require a packed lunch. This can be collected by an adult from the school kitchens from 12pm.

Once again, thank you for your support and patience at this very difficult time. It is very much appreciated.

I will keep you up to date with further information later this week.

Stay safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Tait

## KEY WORKER INFORMATION SHEET

Please provide the information below and return to school if you require a key worker place at school

### PUPIL DETAILS

Name of Pupil

Year Group

### KEY WORKER DETAILS

Name

Home Address

Contact Telephone(s)

Key Worker Group

Job Title

Please identify your role

Date

Signature

Print Name

Relationship to child