

St. Nicholas C of E Primary School
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Tel 01761 432101
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Dear Parents,

School will be closed to all pupils apart from Midford Class tomorrow.

I hope that you have managed to have some fun times at Christmas and wish you a safe and healthy 2021.

I am sorry that I am writing to you so late in the day but I am writing this as our Prime Minister makes his statement. (We get the information at the same time!)

As you are aware the Government has decided tonight that schools must close again to protect everyone from COVID 19. The new variants are a worrying development and we must do everything we can to protect our community.

Our plans going forward will be as follows.

Tuesday 5th January

School will be **CLOSED** to **ALL** pupils **EXCEPT** pupils in Midford class. This is so we can organise the online timetable, sort out bookings for key workers and organise a drive through for paper packs.

Tomorrow morning we will publish times for the drive through to pick up your child's first paper pack. This paper pack will be for the first two weeks of term. We will organise further paper packs as and when we need to.

We will publish the online timetable by 8pm on Tuesday evening.

Key Worker Spaces

Please only book spaces if you really need it – please help us to protect everyone.

We will only have very limited spaces for pupils whose parents are key workers as we also need to continue online learning. Spaces will be allocated to families where BOTH parents are key workers or are from key worker single parent families first. In order to book a key worker space please phone Sharon on the school office number. The phones are likely to be very busy tomorrow so please only phone us if it is regarding this. Spaces should only be booked for days that you are actually working and you will be asked to provide your employer details and shift patterns. Please ensure that you have this information available when you make the phone call. We will take bookings and confirm spaces with families by the end of the day.

Key worker school will operate between 8.45am and 3.15pm each day. School meals can be ordered in the usual way for pupils who are part of this group.

Families with Allocated Social Workers

Children of families with allocated social workers are **expected to attend school** and should do so from **Wednesday at 8.45am.**

EHCP Pupils

We will contact families who have a child who has an EHCP, who is not in the Midford class on Wednesday to discuss provision we are able to offer. This will be once we are clear how many key worker places we need to allocate.

Wednesday 6th January

Staff will start online teaching. We will do our best to stagger live sessions. We understand that there is competition for broadband connections and use of devices at home so work will be set through the learning platform too. Teaching will be blended so your child will be set work in a variety of ways, including use of our learning platform, Oak online academy and paper! Every way is as important as another so please engage in as much as you can. Practice of learnt skills becomes even more important during closure as it helps pupils when they return. During the previous lockdown we noted that it was writing and reading activities that were avoided more than maths so we would encourage you to ensure that your child reads and writes every day in some way or other. Those children who engaged in all of the learning provided during the first lockdown made good progress.

Online learning will be set by a teacher in the year group, every teacher will try to be involved in online learning during the week but due to staff being needed for key worker children it will not always be your child's class teacher taking the lessons. Staff will not be teaching online all day there will be set times when they interact with their classes.

Some pupils will be invited to sessions with teaching assistants too. You will be contacted if this involves your child.

Passwords for online learning

The children's passwords are in their reading records and their communication books. Please **message** us if you are unable to find it.

Free School Meals

At this time, I am unsure what is happening regarding meals. I hope there will be further government guidance over the coming days.

For the remainder of this week we will be offering a drive through takeaway service for meals. If you wish to have meals on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday please

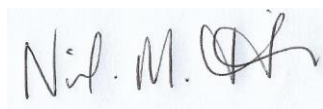
- phone the office on Wednesday morning before 9.30am
- pick up by driving through at 12noon each day.
- If you are on foot please make sure that you wear a mask, follow government guidelines and maintain social distancing on site.

I am so sorry for the short notice but I can only react when I am given information. This is not what any of us would choose. We will do everything we can to support you – please phone or message us if you are struggling and we will do our best to help. We know that the start of the year is going to be difficult for everyone.

Let's hope that by sticking to Government advice and with the roll out of vaccines we will get school open after half term.

I hope that you all remain healthy and stay safe.
With best wishes,

Nicki



Nicola Smith
Headteacher.