

**Air Balloon Hill Primary School,**

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Head Teacher: Mr. T Browse



4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parents,

I am writing to update you on the school's position regarding opening.

As I explained yesterday, many school staff have serious concerns over the safety of opening up Air Balloon to all children in light of recent COVID developments. I have met with staff today to discuss the challenges we face in terms of keeping everyone safe and it is clear to me that if the school were to fully open tomorrow, there would not be sufficient staff to operate the school safely.

For this reason, I have made the decision that from tomorrow, and for the majority of year groups, the school will **only** be open for vulnerable children and, where possible, children whose parents are key workers. All other children's learning will take place remotely. The only exception is in Year 6, where staffing levels will be sufficient for all Year 6 children to attend school as normal.

I understand that this decision may create challenges for parents and carers but I have a duty to ensure that everyone in school is kept safe and therefore this is the only decision I can make at this time.

We are currently still in the process of identifying all the children who will be able to attend school tomorrow. We have asked parents who are key workers to complete a form letting us know and we will be in touch today to confirm your child's attendance. Please note that not all key workers may be provided with a place. Mrs Knight and Mrs Hennys are also contacting some of our families to confirm their place in school tomorrow.

If you have not been contacted by the school to confirm your child's attendance by the end of the day, please do not send your child to school tomorrow.

I will be reviewing this situation on a weekly basis and please be assured that as soon as it is safe for all children to attend school, we will welcome everyone back to Air Balloon.

### **Home Learning**

We will be providing a blended-learning approach for the children who are not in school this week. This will be different to the home learning arrangements we had in place over the summer term. From tomorrow, teachers will email parents the day's learning which will include a zoom link so the children can attend lessons remotely.

These zoom sessions will mean that no child misses out on the learning that is going on in school and will hopefully be easier for parents to manage as their children will have direct input from the class teacher throughout the day.

Your teachers will write to you with a full timetable and a range of online resources and links that the children should use when accessing the learning at home. We do expect all children to attend every lesson.

We are aware that some families may find the technology difficult to access. In the event of children being unable to join in the lessons remotely, the class teacher will contact you to see how we can help.

I am sure there will be hiccups and bumps along the way but please be patient as we try and support all the children access this new style of remote learning.

**Everyone can achieve.**

**Everyone can learn.**

**Everyone belongs.**

## Recap

- From tomorrow, school is not open to all children.
- All of Year 6 children should attend school tomorrow.
- Key worker parents should have informed the school via a school survey that was sent out earlier today. We will be in touch with you shortly. Please note that we may not be able to accommodate all key worker requests.
- We will contact Reception - Year 5 parents today to confirm a school placement.
- If you have not been contacted by the end of the day, do not send your child to school tomorrow.
- If your child is not attending school, teachers will send you information about how your child can access learning from home.
- All children should join in the remote learning work that is set by the class teachers.
- If you cannot access the home learning remotely, your teacher will get in touch with you to discuss how we can support you.
- This situation will be reviewed on a weekly basis in light of local/national information and updates.

Thank you for your support and understanding during this challenging time. These are not easy decisions to make and I hope you all know that they have not been taken lightly. We are working very hard to ensure that all children's education and well-being continues to be a priority. I do not underestimate the challenges that partially opening schools causes and I am sorry for any disruption especially as this news is being communicated to you at short notice. I can only say that we are responding as quickly as we can and I will continue to update you on any changes as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Browse