

**DATE:** 11 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The lockdown announced by the Prime minister on the 4 January is not how we wanted to start the new year and we hope that in this turbulent time, you and your family are keeping safe and well.

As a country, we desperately need to drive infection rates down, and to give the time and space to our critical services to deliver the care they need for both Covid and non Covid related conditions, and to allow the rollout of the vaccine at as fast a pace as possible. In order to achieve this, the single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives. By doing this, we can be part of the longer-term solution.

In the spirit of this, ***we wish to remind you that your child should stay at home and access remote learning if it is appropriate to do so.*** This will lower the number of households mixing and reduce transmission of the virus.

There is an immediate challenge that the lockdown provides for our schools to ensure that your children can access their learning. Our schools are going above and beyond to facilitate the delivery of high-quality remote learning alongside safe on-site learning when the workforce is reduced through illness and self-isolating. This situation ***may*** require school leaders, as a last resort, to prioritise the return of children based on individual need, and on the safety of the school.

To reduce community transmission, we need to ensure that the number of children and young people accessing the offer of provision in a school is kept to the lowest number possible. Therefore, in line with updated government guidance issued on Friday, even if you are a critical worker, ***if your child(ren) can remain at home rather than attend school, on some or all days, then they should.*** Please only use the offer of provision when it is crucial for you to undertake your critical role.

We ask that you continue to show the same patience and compassion to leaders and staff in our settings that you have demonstrated throughout this pandemic. We have learned from the first two waves that if we pull together as a community, with everybody playing their part, we can and will get through this.

Thankyou for your co-operation as we endeavour to keep our schools, families and communities safe.



Mrs L Kwissa  
Chief Executive Officer

*Jesus grew in wisdom and stature*