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### **COVID-19 – Lockdown 3 January 2021 Update**

8.1.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well it certainly isn't the start to 2021 that we had all hoped for! I hope that you are well and coping with the impact of a third national lockdown. The next few months will be a challenge for all of us and the importance of supporting each other and working together has never been more prevalent.

#### **In School Face-to Face Provision**

Having fully opened to all children on Monday and then to be informed on Monday evening (as you were) by the Prime Minister that schools were to close to most children was as deeply upsetting to all school staff as it was to you. I would like to personally thank the vast majority of parents for their patience, understanding and support this week whilst we have been organising staffing and pupil places in school this week. Many Headteachers across the country took the decision to completely close their school fully to children for most of this week whilst they did that. However, with the knowledge that many of our children have two frontline (NHS/Police) parents we wanted to ensure that school remained open to allow these vital services to continue.

Whilst the PM stated school was to remain closed for most children this will not be the case at Scargill. Due to following further guidance, received from the Government yesterday, we are duty bound to offer a place to parents of children of one Critical Worker parent even if that means that there is a parent at home who could look after the child/ren. This significantly increases the number of children who are entitled to a school place. However, I am asking that those parents please reflect on the 'bigger picture' here. The message is clear – stay at home to protect lives. This new strain of Coronavirus is spreading much more quickly with 1 in 3 people reported to have the virus but are asymptomatic. Schools are vectors of transmission.

I am also duty bound to ensure that all staff feel safe coming to work. With more children attending school than remaining at home, all staff (teachers, TAs, Admin

Team, Midday Supervisors, Cleaners and the caretaker) will need to be on site full-time in order to safely run the school. With less children in school and social distancing in place we hope to keep the virus out of our school. However, the more children that attend the more likely it is that we will need to close bubbles when a pupil tests positive. This will then obviously mean our parents of frontline services will not be able to work. At the moment all staff (who are able to) are willing to come to work but I'm sure you will appreciate that anxiety levels are high. Please be assured that staff want to work and do their best for you children but can I ask that you show compassion and understanding of the anxieties they may have.

### **Remote Learning**

For the children who are remaining at home, remote learning is now in place and covers the same learning objectives that the children in school are learning. Children can access this through our school website and Purple Mash. You will notice we have launched our new website and learning activities can be found via the home learning tab which can be found here:

[http://www.scargill.derbyshire.sch.uk/website/home\\_learning/483070](http://www.scargill.derbyshire.sch.uk/website/home_learning/483070)

Children can email their teacher through their Purple Mash email. Parents please use the department emails to contact class teachers. Details of a daily Zoom lesson for children at home will be sent via a text message. We are aware that some children have difficulties with accessing the technology to help them with their learning. If this is the case please email [info@scargill.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@scargill.derbyshire.sch.uk) detailing the problems you are having so we can support you. We should receive a small number of laptops from the Government which can be allocated to those most in need.

The Government have set out a greater expectation for the completion of home learning so that children do not fall further behind. The expectation is that for EYFS, Y1 & Y2 they complete 3 hours per day and for Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 they complete 4 hours per day. The response to home learning so far has been brilliant – well done! As school is fully staffed please bear in mind that teachers are teaching all day and an immediate response to emails and completed work tasks is not possible. However, the Scargill staff are fully committed to the importance of ensuring home-learning is of as high a quality as the learning for the children in school.

### **Mental Health**

We are aware that the pandemic situation continues to impact everyone's mental health. On our website you can find advice here:

[http://www.scargill.derbyshire.sch.uk/website/early\\_help-support\\_and\\_advice/480027](http://www.scargill.derbyshire.sch.uk/website/early_help-support_and_advice/480027)

### **Safeguarding**

If you have any concerns about the safety and well-being of a child please use [safeguarding@scargill.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@scargill.derbyshire.sch.uk) to inform us. If you are concerned that a child is suffering or is at risk of significant harm please contact Call Derbyshire – Starting Point on Tel: 01629 533190 immediately.

### **Free School Meals**

All parents of children eligible for Free School Meals (this does not include Universal Free school meals) have been contacted by our admin team today. We will notify these parents when the requested hampers are ready for collection.

I would love to think I have the words to fully reassure you all at this time but alas I most likely don't! However, what I do know is that the Scargill Community is amazing and we need to remember to be kind, thoughtful and commit to supporting each other through this continued pandemic. Vaccines are on the way...there is hope! So, keep doing your best and WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,

Mrs S. Hallsworth

Head of School