

5th January 2021

Dear parents/ carers,

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year on behalf of the Crown Lane community and I hope that you and your loved ones are all safe and well.

As you will now be aware, our school is now closed to most pupils until further notice. Further guidance on providing care for a *limited number* of children has been issued and this is set out below.

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is that if children can stay *safely* at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and has asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. The fewer children making the journey to school the lower the risk that the virus will spread.

There are exemptions to the above:

1 -Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including Child In Need (CIN) plans, on Child Protection (CP) plans, 'Looked After' children, young carers, disabled children and those with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

2 - Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the DfE Guidance 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>

Many parents working in these sectors may be able to have their child cared for at home and *wherever possible they should do so*. This helps in the event that we have reduced numbers of staff due to illness or self-isolation.

*Thank you to those Critical Workers who completed the form on our website and returned it to us before 12 noon today. **The Keyworker bubbles are now full and we can no longer accept any additional keyworker children.***

3 -Children with Education, Health and Care Plans - If your child has an EHCP you will have been contacted regarding arrangements for your child's return. Please note that if your child has a draft EHCP you will not have been contacted. As was mentioned previously, it is very important to realise that your child may not be working with their usual class teacher, their usual Teaching and Learning Assistant, following their usual timetable or be in their usual classroom. This is due to the school needing to operate differently in order to adhere to the most recent government guidelines.

4 – Other Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including Child In Need (CIN) plans, on Child Protection (CP) plans, 'Looked After' children, young carers, disabled children and those with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

If your child currently has a named Social Worker supporting them, we will have already been in touch with you to arrange for your child to come to school.

While the government guidelines suggest that all nurseries will be open as usual, this is not the case for nurseries run by mainstream primary schools. This means that unless you meet the Critical Worker criteria, your child has an EHCP or your child has a current or named Social Worker, that your child will not be invited to attend our Nursery until at least January 18th.

5 – Free School Meals - If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals the school will contact you in due course once we have been advised of the arrangements for providing support to you.

6 – Clubs - Crown Lane will not be offering Breakfast or After School provision (Fit For Sport) until further notice.

7- Online Learning will be provided for all other pupils from Wednesday 6th January and until further notice. The details about what your child will learn are contained in the link below.

<https://www.crownlane.lambeth.sch.uk/remoteteaching20-21>

The Bubble system that begins tomorrow Wednesday 6th January

School will start for all children who are invited to attend at 9am each day and will finish at 3pm sharp. If parents arrive late for collection the school may withdraw the offer of a place for their child. Lunch will begin at 11.45am and will be socially distanced. Break times will also be socially distanced.

There are six Bubbles in total and these are as follows:

Year 5/6 Bubble - will arrive and depart via the gate next to the main office

Year 4 Bubble – will arrive and depart via the gate at the lower end of the alleyway

Year 2/3 Bubble – will arrive and depart via the gate at the lower end of the alleyway

Year 1 Bubble – will arrive and depart via the large double gates at the front of the school

Reception/Nursery Bubble – will arrive and depart via the Nursery gate

SEND Bubble – will arrive and depart via the main school entrance

Children are asked to come in full school uniform wearing a warm coat and appropriate footwear. They should not bring book bags, toys or PE kits. Please also ensure that your child brings a water bottle with their name on it.

An updated whole school Risk Assessment will be available on our website later this evening for your perusal.

We are all incredibly disappointed that we cannot begin the New Year with all children being in school with our staff. This will no doubt be very frustrating for many parents and carers too. We are all hopeful that in the near future that our schools will return to normal again.

Please be patient with us over the coming weeks while we do our very best to provide the best learning opportunities that we can for your children.

Please contact us if you have any questions or queries.

Kind regards,

Gavin Farrell

Headteacher