

4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have all enjoyed a restful Christmas break and have stayed healthy in these unprecedented times.

Government Guidance

Last week, the Government announced that primary schools in Milton Keynes were not to reopen in full on January 4th due to the rapid increase in COVID infections in the area. We have been asked to only open for the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils (those with an Education Health Care plan or working with Children's Social Care and Children and Family Practice). It is unknown at present how long these measures will be in place for.

Key workers

If you haven't done so already, please check whether you qualify for a place as a key (critical) worker, please refer to this list <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers> . If you do qualify and have not already requested your child a place in school from Tuesday 5th January, please email the school – heronsgate@mket.org.uk as soon as possible. Please note that children will be expected to attend every day on a full-time basis, not on occasional days as was the case previously.

If you have already emailed your requirement and you qualify, you will have received email confirmation of your child's place this afternoon. We are unable to accept any children who do not meet the above criteria and for this we apologise.

For those children who will be attending school as either a keyworker or vulnerable pupil, further detailed information will be emailed to you later today including our Covid-19 key worker application form. Fully completed forms should be sent to heronsgate@mket.org.uk, with the employment information for **all** adults that live in the house completed.

Vulnerable pupils

If your child has an EHCP, then they are expected to come to school as normal.

If your child has a social worker, then they are expected to come to school as normal.

If you are working with Children and Family Practices, then your child is expected to come to school as normal.

There is no need to book a place if you meet one of these criteria as we have already allocated a place for your child.

If your child fits into the vulnerable pupil's category and you do not intend to send them to school, please let us know through heronsgate@mket.org.uk.

Home learning

If your child has to remain at home, we will be providing them with remote learning which is compulsory in this lockdown unlike in the summer term. Further details of this will be sent today so please monitor your emails carefully. We appreciate you will be receiving a number of emails today and understand that this can be difficult to manage. However, we hope that over the next couple of days things will begin to run smoothly.

The school will be providing a mix of remote teaching (via Microsoft Teams) where a class teacher will provide input to the days learning for both Maths and English. There will also be a mix of online and paper-based learning which will be posted on Showbie. If your child does not know their passwords for any of the online learning platforms used, please contact the school. Although sent out previously we will send out the email and passwords for Microsoft Teams again.

I fully appreciate how difficult this may be for many of you and apologise for any inconveniences it may cause, however, if we wish to keep the level of infection down we must stick to the rules whilst also ensuring we are providing the children with the structure, routine, learning and support that they are entitled to. Please bear with us if you experience any technical issues from our end, we're working hard to avoid this.

Further communication

We will be in touch again later with further information regarding those attending school and to outline the home learning expectations as well as information about free school meal provision for those in school and at home.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year and thank you again for your ongoing support and understanding in these difficult times.

Kind regards



Jane Edwards
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs J. Edwards B.A (Hons)
Deputy Head: Mrs C. Gardner-Potter B.Ed (Hons)

Chair of Governors: Mr K. Gowans
Business Manager: Mrs K. Greenhalgh