

## Ashtree School Will Be Closed To Most Pupils From Tuesday 5th January, 2021

04.01.21

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement, this evening, please see the following information:

Due to the high numbers of new Covid 19 cases the government has again asked parents/carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked **schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

Therefore, school will be open, tomorrow (5<sup>th</sup> January) to eligible children for whom we had received a critical worker/vulnerable pupil application form by 3.30pm today: 04.01.21. If your child is entitled to a place and you had not yet completed a form please do so tomorrow by 12.00pm and the school will contact you, as appropriate, for a Wednesday 6th January start. This is necessary to ensure safe staffing levels and I would be grateful for your support with this.

I am attaching the application form to this letter again. If you are unable to access it then please email: [admin@ashtree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashtree.herts.sch.uk) with your request, giving your child/children's names, class number and your eligibility criteria.

The criteria are as follows:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Pupils will be taught in year group bubbles by a rota of their class teachers and support staff.

Pupils for whom an application form had been received by 3.30pm today (04.01.21) should arrive on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at the same times and via the same doors as they have been doing since September.

Pupils who start on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January will also arrive as in the point above.

Pupils to attend in school uniform with PE kit as normal until I advise otherwise.

Any pupil displaying a continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste or sense of smell will be sent home for the 10- day isolation period.

School meals will continue to be provided for pupils on site. It is my understanding that the government will be reintroducing a FSM voucher scheme, as last time, for pupils not attending.

Pupils onsite, and those being educated remotely, will receive the planned curriculum for this term from their teachers. The school has received 33 Chromebooks from the government to

support remote learning. Please contact the school if this would support remote learning for your child.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

Schools will also want to support other children facing social difficulties and we will support head teachers to do so. (*Here at Ashtree we will contact you if your child falls into this category and you have not already filled out a form.*)

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Ashtree School will provide remote learning for all pupils not attending school from 5<sup>th</sup> January

Thank you for your understanding. I will write again as further details are released to schools.

Kind regards,

Ms E Kirwan

Headteacher