



The Parkland Federation

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Aim high, work hard, dream BIG

2nd January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

You may well be aware that the Government announced on 30th December that, due to the latest mutated strain of Covid-19, which is much more transmissible, the decision had been made to close some primary schools in the most affected areas. In East Sussex this included Hastings and Rother, but not Eastbourne.

Our priority is, and has always been, to keep as many children as possible in school, if it is safe to do so. However, having reviewed our school risk assessment and considering the latest scientific advice, we regret to inform you that we have made the incredibly difficult decision that Parkland Infant and Junior Schools will **NOT BE OPEN AS PLANNED ON MONDAY 4th January 2020. The schools will remain open for children of key workers and vulnerable children only - until further notice.** The risk assessment will be reviewed on a regular basis and we will keep you informed when it is safe for all children to return to school as normal. We are so sorry that this decision has been made with short notice but I am sure you will understand that there is a rapidly changing picture due to the emergence of this new variant and rising infection rates.

If you qualify as a frontline key worker, please send your child to school at the usual staggered start time and collect them at the usual staggered end time. Please note that if you are a key worker, it is not mandatory for your child to attend school. Children who attend school will be accessing exactly the same learning as children who are learning at home - there will be no additional learning taking place in school. Given the increasing infection rate, we believe that the safest place for children is at home.

If your child has an EHCP, is Looked After (foster care), or they have a Social Worker, school will remain open to them also.

It is expected that all children at home engage in remote learning. The school's remote learning offer is extremely strong as we have created a service which enables children to continue with the learning that would have taken place face-to-face at school.



The vast majority of children in Years 1 -6 now successfully access Google Classroom and interact with their teachers online. If you do not have the technology to do this, please get in touch with your class teacher by Monday afternoon.

Breakfast Club and After School Club will operate as normal for those pupils attending as key workers and who need this service.

Pupils eligible for Free School Meals will receive further information on Monday regarding provision. Children eligible for Free School Meals who also qualify to attend school will continue to have a meal provided by our kitchen, which will remain open.

Thank you for your continued support during this challenging time. The safety of our pupils, staff and families is of paramount importance.

Kind Regards,

Julie Prentice
Executive Headteacher

Sally Simpson
Head of Schools