

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Update following Prime Minister's announcement about (Tier 5) national lockdown**

Dear Parents/Carers,

**I am writing to update you with information following the Prime Minister's announcement that schools will now be closed to most children from tomorrow, as part of the national lockdown.**

We are still awaiting details of how long schools will remain closed, but the Prime Minister indicated that this would not be until "after February half term".

**As was the case in March 2020, school will be open to children of critical workers and vulnerable children.**

**However, given the Government u-turn at very short notice, we will be closed to all children tomorrow (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January) so that we can plan for remote learning, adapt risk assessments and understand more about how many children need a school place during this lockdown.**

**We aim to open the school to vulnerable children and children of critical workers from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.**

The Government defines Vulnerable children and young people as those who:

- **are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child**
- **have an education, health and care (EHC) plan**
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
  - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
  - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - those living in temporary accommodation
  - those who are young carers
  - **those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)**
  - care leavers
  - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

The Government has produced a list of critical workers via

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

**Please check this list, as your child is entitled to a place in school during this lockdown.**

**If you feel that your child meets the criteria for a place in school, please email [support@wernethprimary.org.uk](mailto:support@wernethprimary.org.uk) and we will call you back tomorrow (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January) to offer places.**

**I will provide an update on how we plan to provide free school meals or vouchers as soon as possible.**

As a father of two primary school aged daughters, I understand the sudden and significant impact that tonight's announcement has on families and I am sorry that you are having to go through this experience again. Please stay in contact with school. We are here to help in whatever way we can.

Thank you for your continued support and please stay safe and healthy,



Mr Bell, Principal. Werneth Primary School