

3rd January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

You may be aware of increasing opposition to the Department for Education's plan for the start of term for primary schools, since the identification of a new strain of the COVID variant and the resulting rise in infections. In certain parts of the country, primary schools have moved to remote learning for all but vulnerable children and those of key workers.

School Unions, acting on behalf of school staff, have now united in calling on the government to move all schools and colleges in England to remote education for at least the first two weeks of term because of rising Covid infections and the impact of the new variant of the virus.

All school staff fully support keeping education functioning as fully as possible during the Covid crisis but are also very concerned about the safety of pupils, staff, parents and the community. Staff have been advised by their unions to support key worker and vulnerable pupil provision but also to exercise their right to safety in their working environment.

As a result of this Havelock Junior School will only be able to offer face to face learning for Year 6 pupils tomorrow plus critical worker and vulnerable pupils in Years 3-5. All other pupils will move to remote learning in line with our plans. We apologise for the inconvenience that this may cause for you but as always we are fully committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff, families and community. We will of course be in contact with you as the situation develops further.

Critical worker/vulnerable provision will be available from tomorrow for those children that were previously identified and took up this provision during the summer term. If you feel that you are a critical worker but had not utilised the provision previously or your circumstances have changed and you are now a critical worker where you might not have been previously please contact the school during the day on Monday 4th January 2021 either by telephone or by emailing office@havelockschools.org.uk. We will then make a space available as soon as possible upon receipt of critical worker status information proof from your employer.

Please follow this link for details of those who are now considered to be critical workers and therefore entitled to this provision:

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

Those pupils attending the provision on Monday the 4th January should continue to follow all previous times and drop off arrangements that have been in place since September.

Teachers will continue to provide learning in year group for those that are present and the same online learning will be delivered to those that are at home via Microsoft Teams. We apologise for the inconvenience that this may cause for you but as always we are fully committed to the health, safety and well-being of our pupils, staff, families and community. We will of course be in contact with you as the situation develops further.

At any point through this closure, if you need any resources, help or support please contact us immediately. This is an unknown situation for us all and we can help each other by keeping in

touch and sharing any concerns we have along the way. We will always do our utmost to support you in any way we can but we cannot be sure how long this will be for.

Yours sincerely



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Havelock Junior School



Ann Davey
CEO Pathfinder Schools