LEIGH

Primary School

The Green, Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 8QP

Telephone/Fax: 01732 832660

Wednesday 30th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas break and have managed to spend lots of precious time with your children over the festive period.

You may be aware that this afternoon the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, announced that some primary schools will **not** return on Monday 4th January as previously intended. This is in response to the most recent data surrounding COVID-19 infections in certain areas across the country.

I am writing to inform you that Leigh Primary School has been included in this area and will therefore **not** fully open as planned on Monday 4th January 2021. I appreciate that this will be hugely disappointing for many of you and I can only apologise in advance for the inevitable inconvenience that another enforced closure will cause.

There will be a letter sent out tomorrow afternoon at **2pm** with detailed information about how this latest closure will operate and can I ask you check your inbox around this time as it will be important that you read this letter very carefully. Although the school will not fully open on Monday 4th January 2021, we will be open to those children who are classed as Vulnerable or those who are the children of Critical Workers. The definitions of these groups are detailed below. Those defined as Vulnerable are expected to attend full-time as usual. Those of you who are defined as Critical Workers should notify me via email on headteacher@leigh.kent.sch by 12pm on Friday 1st January 2021 if you need your children to be educated at school at any time throughout this period. Please note that when possible you should keep your children at home if you are a Critical Worker to ensure we can cater effectively for all those families who will rely on this service.

Could I take this opportunity to thank you again for all your support throughout this challenging time and I will write again tomorrow afternoon with further details.

With best wishes,

Daniel Eaton

Headteacher Leigh Primary School

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

Health and social care
This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare
This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

Key public services
This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government
This only includes:
those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies

Food and other necessary goods
This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security
This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)

National Crime Agency staff
those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport
This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services
This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

Vulnerable children and young people

Vulnerable children and young people include 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
- adopted children, 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)
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion