



HALLING

Primary School

Howlsmere Close, Halling, Rochester, Kent, ME2 1ER

Telephone - 01634 240258 email - office@halling.medway.sch.uk

30th December 2020

Dear Parents

SCHOOL CLOSURE – JANUARY 2021

Firstly, apologies for getting in touch over the holiday period. However, as I am sure you have seen on the news this evening, some primary schools across the country will not be permitted to fully open next week. Unfortunately, Medway falls into the list of areas where schools will only be open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. A definition of these categories has been attached alongside this letter.

I am so incredibly sad that we cannot welcome all children back to school on Tuesday as I was really hoping that 2021 would begin in the vein that we all wanted - to begin the return to normality.

Critical Workers and Vulnerable Children

Children of critical workers and those children considered vulnerable will be welcomed into school at the same start and finish times that their year group currently follows. A teacher and a teaching assistant from each year group will be in school every day to help the children with their work. Children should enter and exit the school building at the same door they have used since September and full school uniform should be worn. We will continue to keep pods separate at all times.

We must fully comply with the guidelines of who the Government considers critical workers to be. Therefore, to indicate that you are a critical worker and require your child to attend school in the coming weeks, please email office@halling.medway.sch.uk giving the following information:

- Your name, your occupation and name of your employer
- Your child's name and class

At this stage, we do not require proof of your critical worker status but reserve the right to request it should we deem it necessary.

Once we have the necessary information, we will enable you to book the required days on Schoolcomms. Ordinarily, these bookings will need to be made by 3 pm but **for us to work out initial staffing requirements could you please indicate your critical worker status by 2 pm on Saturday 2nd January. We do not want to rota staff to come into school if they are not required.**

In addition, could I ask that if you are a critical worker and/or your child is vulnerable and you are NOT going to send your child to school, please let us know. This will help us massively with logistics and, quite honestly, knowing where we are!

Lunch arrangements for children of critical workers and vulnerable children will be sent to the relevant parents on Monday once we have an idea of numbers and what the capacity is of the catering team.

All Other Children

Staff will be setting daily lessons and activities on SeeSaw. These will be marked, and comments given regularly.

Breakfast & After School Club

Until school can open fully, I'm afraid breakfast and after school club will only be open to those children who already use the service *and* are part of the critical worker/vulnerable children group coming into school. If your child is **not** part of this group and therefore **not** coming into school but you have already booked sessions these will be cancelled and credited to your Schoolcomms/Gateway account.

As always, we have tried to get information out to you as soon as possible to hopefully give you some time to make the necessary arrangements for your family. The Government has indicated that these arrangements will be reviewed by 18th January 2021. When we know more, we will, of course, let you know but please remember that we do not get any inside information - we are told at the same time as you (which has never made any sense to me!).

Happy New Year and I truly look forward to seeing you all soon!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Selmi', written in a cursive style.

Miss S Selmi
Head Teacher