

Dear Parent

It is with deepest regret that I am having to inform you that following the announcement made by the Government on Monday 4th January 2020, Aston Lodge will be closed from Tuesday 5th January 2021 and will not reopen until further notice. The spread of the new variant of COVID-19 has led to rapidly escalating case numbers across the country and accordingly the government has made the decision to close schools to the vast majority of students.

The Government announced that schools, colleges and early years' settings, nationwide, will be closed to the vast majority of students as part of the country's ongoing response to the new variant of COVID-19. It is our intention to be open, in line with Government recommendations, providing provision for the children of key workers and those requiring additional support from Wednesday 6th January 2021. School will be closed to all children on Tuesday 5th January in order for school to respond to this situation.

It is very important to reiterate that children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home until further notice.

It is our civil duty to continue to provide an education to all of our students. We will continue with providing remote learning provision for all students whilst they have been asked to remain at home. We have prepared a bank of work for your child to complete whilst absent from school to ensure that student education can still continue.

Students will follow their existing curriculum in line with their school timetable. With this in mind, we are now preparing to provide work for your child. We are well-prepared for the situation, with excellent systems in place. Children will receive a pack of activities and work including writing and maths tasks and research projects. There will be continued access to our online website resources and class pages and these will be updated regularly by teaching staff.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure the safe education of their children by encouraging them to complete the work set for them online. Their teachers will send work to your child directly, either on google classrooms or via their school e-mail address. Teachers have had guidance on the various methods of setting work remotely, and in most cases, this relies on the teachers and students using online resources in some way. Given that the majority of students, or families, have some access to internet enabled phones, we believe this to be the best method of communication.

A reminder that our full remote learning policy can be found on the school website:

- No 1:1 sessions should take place.
- The online learning session can only be conducted if there is more than one child present. If only 1 child attends, the session should not go ahead and the work should be sent via class dojo/the school website for the children to complete independently at home.
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household. ☒ Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not

in bedrooms; and where possible be against a neutral background.

- The live class should be recorded and backed up elsewhere, so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time and no more than 30 minutes, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Registers should be completed by the class teacher at the start of the session.
- Children should be expected to behave in the same way that they would behave if they were in school. It is the teacher's responsibility to mute a child if they are shouting out. Children should be reminded about the expectations online. There should also be the expectation that the children are sat down for the session and not walking around with their device.
- If you notice any concerns regarding the safety or wellbeing of a child, please refer to the safeguarding (Mrs Cronin) or deputy safeguarding lead (Miss Burton)

We have already identified a number of students who may not have suitable online access at home and are in the process of supporting this. If you feel you require additional support to ensure students access their learning, please inform staff where possible, and we will try and accommodate that in any work we set. We ask that you ensure your child completes the work to the best of their ability and we ask parents to support the school by ensuring all students participate in their remote learning. Students have already missed a significant amount on site education and complete engagement is the only way we can mitigate any further learning deficits.

Their teachers will update these work platforms regularly and communicate feedback with your child directly, either through google platforms, via their email address, class dojo or phone calls.

We hope you understand that the welfare of both our students and staff has to be our first priority and by taking early action, we will be able to return to 'normal service' as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Cronin

Headteacher