



4th January 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

I am writing to provide you a basic outline of what we intend will happen from tomorrow (Tuesday, January 5th 2021) onwards.

- We are following the DfE guidance which instructs schools to open if they are Primary and in Secondary/Sixth Form age pupils if the pupil has an EHCP. All of our pupils have EHCPs and therefore we are working on opening to all pupils from Tuesday.
- We will need to see the affects of the Union advice on staff attendance, positive tests amongst the staff group and periods of self-isolation amongst staff – this could affect staff to pupil ratios and therefore we cannot promise to be fully open to all pupils all of the time. Our decision making will be based on being safe at all times. We will review this daily.
- We understand that you may already have been affected by a bubble closure in school last term, or a transport closure, or your child may have been affected as a close contact because of your respite arrangements. You may have been affected by the dip in staff ratios before Christmas and experienced the partial opening/closure in the Main School Bubble. We know this is disruptive and inconvenient, and we are working hard daily to minimise this for all families. We are sorry every time this happens, thank you for understanding how difficult this can be.
- You may be wondering what the overall picture has been at school. During the Autumn term there were two pupils who tested positive – leading to a sixth form bubble closure. There was one positive staff test, during the half term closure and therefore not affecting the pupils or staff in the bubble. Other closures resulted from staff not being available to work – not infections. I hope you agree that this is a great testament to the staff and pupils working hard all the time to stay as safe as possible. Thank you for this, it helps enormously.
- Transport have been informed that we are working on opening to all pupils on Tuesday.
- Please continue to support school by being vigilant about symptoms in your child and help us by keeping them off if they are at all unwell at this time. We will continue to have to isolate pupils if they have any Covid 19 symptoms, and ask you to take them home and get a test. We are very vigilant about this in order to keep our whole school community safe.

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- We are working with the Local Authority from Monday on the mass testing programme for staff and pupils. We know that this will raise lots of questions, but we feel in the long run it may help us all feel a bit safer and confident especially about asymptomatic cases. The details of this are not yet available – first we are working on where this testing can take place – as we are tight for space! After this we will communicate with families so you can feel as informed as possible. I don't yet know if this will be for all pupils in our case, or for just secondary and sixth form. It is consent based too.
- If your child is over the age of 11, and they can put on a mask themselves, please send one in daily and we will encourage their use if the pupil is in a communal area. If your child has an adapted mask – such as a sun hat with a face visor and you would like them to wear this when out of class (for example whilst travelling down a corridor) please let us know and we will put this on for them if they cannot do it themselves. We are not allowed to put a face covering like a mask, or bandana on a pupil if they cannot do it themselves.

Please update your contact details if they have changed over Christmas, it is important we can contact you quickly in case your child needs to go home. You can do this by emailing: admin@springwater.n-yorks.sch.uk

We don't know what the next few weeks or days will hold, but you will understand that things look quite uncertain and unpredictable. Everyone here is working hard to stay open, but in the event of things changing we will provide remote learning just as we did in the original lock down.

Thank you for your support and particularly if you sent a positive message at the end of last term, we were really grateful for your kindness and empathy.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2021.

Take care and keep well.

Regards

Sarah

Sarah Edwards

Head Teacher