



Saturday 2nd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sorry that I must write to you during the Christmas holidays but, once again, we find ourselves in extraordinary times and I find that I have important information to share with you.

As you may have heard on the news or via social media, late on Friday afternoon, a ministerial decision was taken to **close all London primary schools to most children from Monday 4th January 2021**. Meridian has an INSET day on Monday 4th January and on Tuesday 5th January, **only vulnerable children and those with at least one parent who is a key/critical worker will be able to attend school for face-to-face learning**. This applies to all children, including those in our Nursery. **High quality remote learning will be provided for children remaining at home**. These measures will be reviewed again by the government by 18th January.

I believe that school is the best place for children to learn and that it plays a key role in nurturing children's emotional well-being - that is why school closure is always a last resort and why Meridian staff have worked very hard throughout the Covid 19 pandemic to keep school open. However, we now find ourselves in a position where worsening rates of transmission and infection across London are at concerning levels. As such, I do believe that the decision to close Greenwich primary schools to most children at this time is the right decision to protect children, staff and the wider community.

Please note that the decision to close London primary schools to most children for the next two weeks is part of the government's contingency framework which is designed as a containment measure where

- there is extremely high prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- other measures have already been implemented

It aims to limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in schools and the wider community, protect public health and save lives.

The DfE have said that reducing the number of children in school will provide the opportunity for enhanced social distancing for those children attending. Places will therefore be limited and in line with government policy, only vulnerable children and those of critical workers can attend school. Breakfast Club and Playclub will be available for critical worker children only.

Critical worker parents/carers should notify us whether their child requires full-time face-to-face provision in school, by completing the attached form. We will contact parents of our vulnerable children via telephone or email by the end of the day on Monday to offer them a place. More information on the

criteria can be found here: [Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings](#)

To support us with our planning, please can all parents complete the attached survey as soon as possible: <https://forms.gle/cNDLtk7zfrWKmFx56>

I will contact all parents/carers again on Monday to outline the drop-off and pick-up arrangements for children attending school and to outline remote learning arrangements for all other children. Please note that schools have been asked to provide food parcels for children who meet the free school meals eligibility criteria - we will contact these families on Monday with our arrangements.

We hope that this period of school closure for most children will be a short one and we very much look forward to reopening to all children as soon as it is safe to do so. Thank you for your ongoing support during these difficult times. In the words of Dr Tedros, Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), *'There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and we will get there by taking the path together'*.

My very best wishes

Jo

Jo Graham - Headteacher