



4th January 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

The two schools' leadership teams have been discussing over the weekend and met this morning to discuss the views of staff, Parents & Carers and to review the scientific data for our local area. Given the concerns expressed by an increasing number of you, the rising rates in our city and in our local area and evidence that the new variants of Covid-19 are more easily transmissible by school-aged children, we understand and share the serious concerns. Thankfully, the new variants do not appear to make children more ill, but it does pose an increase in risk to families, the wider community and our staff and their families.

This weekend, schools received a letter from Councillor Ian Ward, leader of Birmingham City Council, sent to Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education. Attached is the letter, but in essence he urges Mr Williamson to reconsider the opening of primary schools due to the new strains of the virus and rising infection levels within the city.

Therefore, it is with heavy hearts that we have taken the very difficult decision to not reopen tomorrow as planned for most children. This decision has not been taken lightly. With infection rates in the Northfield and Longbridge areas having risen in the last 7 days to between 465 and 490/100,000 and reviewing all the latest SAGE independent scientific advice, as well as joint union advice, we feel it is the only way to ensure that all our community are kept as safe as possible.

Remote/ Home Learning & Key Worker/ Working Families

Both schools will be closed to most pupils (initially until 15 January, re-opening 18 January) – this will be reviewed daily and with the leadership teams continuing to monitor advice, guidance and scientific data. We will keep you informed and as up to date as possible throughout.

We will remain open (8.30am-3.30pm Mon-Fri) and fully staffed for our working families/ key worker families as well as some vulnerable children. We suggest that if your child/ren attends the schools during this period due to being a working family, that they attend each day to keep consistency, both for them and the school – but this will be your decision.



If you do require a place, please inform the schools today, letting us know which days, if not a full week, and we ask that you get a letter, on letter headed company paper (or an email from your employer), to confirm you are a key worker/ still continuing to work during this time.

Your teachers will message you and be in contact over the coming days to give you all details of the remote/ home learning and to support you and your children with this. Children who are in school will also be working on the school's remote/ home learning. *Please be aware that some of the telephone calls to you may be on a withheld number.*

If you have a child in the Junior school and are struggling with access to technology/ Internet, please contact us to discuss how we can support you.

Please do contact us if you have any questions or concerns. You can do this by phone, to the enquiry@ emails or to the year group emails directly to your child's class teachers.

Remember, that throughout all this, your children's, and your families', welfare is at the forefront of all our decisions. Please also remember that we are still here to support you in any way we can so please do contact us if you need any support or advice for anything and we'll help in any way we can!

Further information, such as Free School Meals, will follow as we get this information.

Take care and stay safe

Kind regards

Mr N. Attwood

Mrs G. Simm

Head Teacher

Head Teacher

Bellfield Junior School

Bellfield Infant School