



# Sledmere Primary School



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Head of School: Mr Derek Fance BEd (Hons), PGDip, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Jill Hillery BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Tuesday 5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In the Prime Minister's announcement of the national lockdown last night at 8.00 pm, he confirmed that blanket school closures will be implemented from today. As was the case during the first lockdown, our pupils will now switch to remote learning. However, children deemed vulnerable or whose parents are key workers will still be able to attend school.

It was stated that pupils will not return to the classroom until after the February half-term at the earliest. This takes us up to Monday 22 February 2021.

We are pleased to confirm that Sledmere is open today for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. The definition of critical workers and vulnerable children is explained in the most recent government guidance published today:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Our teachers have been busy contacting all our families by phone and email today. We plan to launch our remote learning on Google Classrooms, as well as making paper resources available to you if required, by Thursday at the latest. In the meantime, there are learning activities available on our website under the 'Children' menu. If you need a reminder of your child's login details for Numbots, Times Table Rockstars or Education City, please just let us know.

Thank you all for your support, patience and genuine care for our staff team. The ways many of you have shown gratitude to our staff before Christmas was very heart-warming and it is so reassuring to know how much you value their efforts. We cannot say how much this means to us and how this keeps us going, particularly when we are having to make very difficult decisions on a daily basis.

Our most important principle within the intense planning and preparations, which we make on a daily basis, is to ensure that your children, who I can assure you are so precious to all of us, are able to be kept safe.

Unfortunately since Christmas, COVID-19 rates in Dudley have been climbing rapidly with no evidence of slowing. The 7 day rate is currently at 600 per 100,000, which is the highest we have seen through the pandemic and is almost double the rate before Christmas. Coronavirus case rates are increasing across all age ranges including children. In contrast to earlier waves where the case rate increased at different times in different areas of the borough, the rates are now increasing rapidly across all towns of Dudley borough. Such high rates are causing huge pressure on local NHS hospitals and it is critical that they are brought back under control with extreme urgency.

We shall keep you fully updated with the latest information as we receive it. We do hope that all our children and families remain safe and resilient in these difficult times. Look after yourselves!

Regards,

Peter Bravo  
Executive Headteacher

Executive Headteacher: Mr Peter Bravo BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH