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Headteacher: Ruth Hudson

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31st December 2020.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE - JANUARY 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable holiday, despite the restrictions we are all living with.

My letter today includes important information about the start of term.

As you may have seen, the Government has announced that there are some areas of the country which are at a higher risk of Covid infection and where schools will not open on Monday 4th January as planned for INSET and Tuesday 5th for pupils. Our school is in Wandsworth which is one of these areas. This means **our school will not be open next week**, except for the children of key workers and children considered vulnerable from Tuesday 5th January 2021. **School is closed to everyone on Monday 4th January 2021.**

This means that:

- If your child is classed as vulnerable, or if you **and** your partner are key workers, then your child will be able to return to school on Tuesday 5th January (please see the information overleaf).
- If you are a single parent, who is a keyworker, or both parents are key workers and you would like your child to attend school. Please email the school with photo ID(s) or a letter from your employer(s) confirming that your job is critical to the COVID response and we will be in touch.
- If your child is not classed as vulnerable and if both you and your partner are not a key workers, then your child will not return to school until **at least Monday 18th January 2021**. The Government has not set a date for schools to re-open and will be keeping this under review. Remote learning will be provided, and your child is expected to engage fully with this while school is closed.

I will of course let you know as soon as the Government decides when the school can re-open to all pupils.

Please note the following information:

Twitter: [@thealton](https://twitter.com/thealton) Instagram.com/[the_alton_primary_school](https://www.instagram.com/the_alton_primary_school) Facebook: [@altonprimary](https://www.facebook.com/altonprimary)



Part of the Quality First Education Trust. Registered company number: 07768645.
Registered address: Belleville Primary School, Belleville Road, London SW11 6PR

- **Home learning:** We are committed to supporting your child's learning at home. Children will be provided with activities and work to complete at home each day. This will include a daily English and Maths lesson. We will be using our school and trust websites to help provide lessons and learning materials. Children will continue to use Google Classroom and/or Seesaw. We will be in touch with more details on Monday 4th January for each class and year group. We will continue to celebrate learning and achievements. If your child is working at home, please share their learning with us on Twitter and Instagram and include [#Q1EHomeLearning](#) [#Thealtonschool](#) in your post.
- **Class contact:** Teachers will keep in touch with your children via remote learning platforms (Google Classroom and/or Seesaw) and through telephone contact. Again, more details will be provided for you on Monday 4th January.
- **Contacting the school:** We appreciate your patience and support during this challenging time. We will be continuing to monitor the school email inboxes during normal school hours. Please contact us at: admin@thealton.wandsworth.sch.uk
- **Lunches:** All vulnerable or key worker children who will be coming onto site for their learning will need to bring a packed lunch. If your child is eligible for free school meals, you will be issued with a weekly food box. More details will be sent directly to eligible parents.
- **Support with WiFi and/or devices:** If you require support with accessing the internet at home, or your child is not able to access a suitable device for home learning, please contact us. The school may be able to help with a device or a data dongle.
- **Shielding:** Shielding advice is currently in place in tier 4 areas, and so all children and staff who are still deemed clinically extremely vulnerable are advised to shield and not to attend school. Please contact us with your doctor's advice if your child has been advised not to attend school.
- **Covid-19 testing on site:** You may have heard that covid-19 testing will be conducted in some schools this term. This relates only to secondary schools and therefore we are unaffected.

I hope that the information in this letter is helpful and clear but if you have any questions, please do email these to admin@thealton.wandsworth.sch.uk.

As you know, we have worked hard since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 to keep our school as safe as possible for everyone. I would like to thank our incredible staff for their commitment and professionalism, which has seen many of them working over the Christmas holidays.

For all of us, this remains an incredibly difficult period. However, we are committed to supporting the children with their education during this enforced period of school closure. We will continue to take decisions in the best interests of our pupils, working with you and keeping you informed. We are very grateful for your support and patience during this time.

Finally I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy New Year. Please do continue to take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Hudson

Ruth Hudson
Headteacher
The Alton School

Information regarding vulnerable children and the children of key workers

Children classed as vulnerable

We are committed to supporting our most vulnerable children at this challenging time. The government has announced that provision will still be available for:

- **Children with an Education Health and Care Plan** and
- **Children with an allocated social worker.**

Children of Key Workers

The government guidance is that if at all possible, children should stay at home during this period, however children may still attend school if it is necessary to help key workers go to work. Key workers are defined as **parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response**, including those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below.

- **Health and social care:** This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.
- **Education and childcare:** This includes those in childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers, and specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus response.
- **Key public services:** This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.
- **Local and national government:** This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the coronavirus response, or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies.
- **Food and other necessary goods:** This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).
- **Public safety and national security:** This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus outbreak) fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.
- **Transport:** This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport operating during the coronavirus response,

including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

- **Utilities, communication and financial services:** This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision, the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors, information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies required to continue during the coronavirus response, key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services, delivery payments providers, and waste disposal sectors.

What you need to do next

If your children are in one of the above categories, and you would like them to continue to attend school as normal, please email us at: admin@thealton.wandsworth.sch.uk **by 6pm on Saturday 2nd January 2021.**

We can then discuss with you how your children should then attend school as usual, every day. If you are a key worker, please also provide photographic ID or a letter from your employer confirming your job is critical to the COVID-19 response.