



The Winchcombe School

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Achieve, Believe, Care

4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

This morning we have met as a leadership team to review our risk assessment and put further measures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible when children return to school on **Tuesday 5th January**.

We have to ensure we are limiting, as much as we possibly can, the movement of staff and children from bubble to bubble, as this will help with reducing the risk of transmission of Covid-19. Therefore, starting on Wednesday 6 January, and every **Wednesday** after that, the school will be closing to all at 1pm for Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 children and 1.15pm for Year 3,4, 5 & 6 pupils. This is to facilitate teachers' statutory planning and preparation time and give us a chance to give the school another deep clean. We are very aware of the inconvenience this will cause but the alternative would be full closure of the school to all but the vulnerable and critical worker groups. We will however, be open on Wednesday afternoons to **ONLY** those children of critical workers or vulnerable groups – they will remain in year groups.

More details of the criteria can be found here:

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

If you feel your child fits into one of these categories, then please contact the school office between 10am and 12pm tomorrow – Tuesday 5 January. We will then assess each request and let you know later that day if you have a space. Please note that during these Wednesday afternoons support staff in that year group will provide childcare not teaching. Barring changes to national policy on school openings, these arrangements will stay in place until at least half-term.

A separate letter will go out regarding Phoenix club arrangements, as this also will need to reflect the necessity of minimising bubble contamination.

To try and ease congestion at the end of each day, parents/carers of children in Foundation or Key Stage One can pick up older siblings at the same time. Please make your way to the relevant class and the staff will send your child out to you.

We are putting two metre markers around the whole school site to help everyone keep to the social distancing guidelines – you should not mix with any other bubble either on the school site or directly outside.

Please continue to wear face masks unless exempt.

All the above measures are vital in trying to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19.

I know the time frames we have asked you to work within are short and this is unavoidable as government guidelines are ever changing. Thank you all so much for your understanding in these extremely testing times.



Yours sincerely

Neil Pilsworth

