



Sunday 3rd January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

RETURNING TO SCHOOL JANUARY 2021

After a huge amount of deliberation and a full re-evaluation of our risk assessments, we are writing to inform you that we have made the decision **to move over to remote learning for all children for the first week of the spring term. We will review this decision on a weekly basis** and will let you know, with sufficient notice, of any changes.

This decision has been made in the light of:

- our commitment to keeping Fairlands' children, families and staff safe
- our confidence in the quality of our remote learning offer
- the current case rates in our local area, which match those of boroughs in London at the point the government instructed them to implement a remote learning offer for the first two weeks of term
- the potential increased risk of transmission of the new variant of the coronavirus amongst children
- the impact of the advice issued by teaching unions that it is not safe for their members to work on site
- the need to give parents and carers reasonable notice of a change to provision where possible

This means that **ALL children, except those of critical workers and some vulnerable children, will need to stay home for the week Monday 4th January to Friday 8th January** and **fully engage in remote learning activities** which will be provided by teaching staff next week.

The definition of 'critical workers' and 'vulnerable children' 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 are a critical worker or are eligible for on-site provision from Tuesday 5th January, you will receive an email on Monday with more information, including links to the booking system. Please note Monday 4th January is an INSET day.

It has not been easy to make this decision, but we believe it is important to give children, parents and carers clarity about our position so that you can all make preparations for the week ahead.

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, we have seen how we pull together at Fairlands to face even the hardest challenges and I am sure this team effort will continue into the new year. We thank you in advance for your ongoing support over the next few weeks. If you have any concerns or worries, please do email head@fairlands.herts.sch.uk and we will do our best to help you.

Please keep a close eye on your email and the school website for more information to follow.

Kindest regards

Claire Peacock
Chair of Governors

Robert Staples
Headteacher