



HEATHWOOD LOWER SCHOOL, Heath Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 3AU
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Headteacher: Mrs Susanne Dove B. Ed (Hons), NPQH

4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you that the Staff and Governors have today made the difficult decision to revert to Remote Learning to all but vulnerable children and the children of Key Workers from 5th January until 18th January in line with secondary school closures.

We have made this very difficult decision to ensure the Health and Safety of all our children and staff. We no longer believe that we can maintain a safe environment within the higher transmissibility of the new variant of COVID-19. Whilst we believe the controls of our risk assessment have been robust, they have not been tested by the new strain and we are already experiencing significant staffing issues ahead of term starting, which will impact the effectiveness of what we can achieve. We also have a number of positive cases still being reported throughout our whole school community.

We realise the strain and pressure this can place on your own homes and work lives and we are truly sorry that the Government has put us in this position. Our priority is not only your children's education, but also their Health and Safety and we take this responsibility very seriously.

The school will remain open for vulnerable and Key Worker children only, who will be taught in isolated Class Bubbles rather than the family Bubbles we used last time. Learning at home will mirror provision in school, as far as possible, with 2 live lessons daily and all other work available via PADLET. Codes for Apps and online learning are in the front of your child's school diary.

Can we please ask that if you wish to apply for a Key Worker place and if you also require wrap around care, that you email office@heathwood.beds.sch.uk by 3.30pm today Monday 4th January in order that we can confirm places by 6pm. Please title your email Key Worker or Vulnerable place. Priority will be given in the following order:

1. Vulnerable children including children with an EHCP and/or social worker
2. Children of a single parent Key Worker or where both parents at home are Key Workers
3. Children where 1 of the parents at home is a Key Worker.

If you are a Key Worker, please advise us of your job role. See link below to the Government list of Key Worker roles.

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

As always, thank you for your continued support in these challenging times.

Mrs Susanne Dove
Head Teacher

Mrs Paula Bangs
Chair of Governors

