

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

(By email)

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils**

Following on from my letter sent yesterday, I'm now writing to let you know that we have now been instructed to close schools to almost all children tomorrow until February Half Term and then subsequent review.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and vulnerable children as previously identified.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from tomorrow onwards. Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will continue to keep you informed through email, social media and our websites.

### **What we'll continue doing while your child is at home**

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn. Each WeST school will move to remote home learning. Detail of this will come directly from each school.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this.

### **Children of key workers and certain needs**

Self-isolation and illness may mean that our schools' workforce is significantly depleted and we will be monitoring this on a daily basis. The actions that are being taken, both locally and by the government, are being done with the clear intent of preventing the spread of the virus. As such it is imperative that to keep our children and staff safe our schools receive a thorough clean each day. Our cleaning staff are playing a vital role in keeping schools open but it could be that, at times, we have to re-map our provision. This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation.

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We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Best wishes

Rob Haring  
**CEO WeST**

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