

31st December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Government Announcement - delayed reopening of Primary Schools

Last night, the government announced that in order to help contain the community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), some restrictions to primary education settings are required in certain areas. Basildon is included in the list of local authorities where this guidance applies. The guidance can be found here

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948580/Contingency_framework_implementation_guidance.pdf

This means that Bardfield Academy will not reopen as planned on Tuesday 5th January 2021, the majority of children will be taught remotely by their teachers. You will be able to access plans and resources on the school website and teachers will upload teaching videos onto Seesaw. (Year 1 and Reception will continue to use Tapestry).

Children should then upload their work onto Seesaw/Tapestry, meaning the teacher can assess their understanding and give feedback. Remote learning will commence on Tuesday 5th January, these local measures will be kept under review by the government and will be reviewed again by 18th January 2021.

If you require support with accessing technology please email the school (admin@bardfieldacademy.org), as we have some laptops available that can be lent to families. It is essential that your child completes the remote learning work; we must try and ensure children make progress and do not have greater gaps in their learning.

School website is here <http://www.bardfieldacademy.org/home-learning/>

Bardfield Academy will be open on Tuesday 5th January 2021 for children of critical workers and those defined as vulnerable to attend. Please complete the google form [January 2021 critical worker and vulnerable children form](#) if you feel you are a critical worker or your child is classed as vulnerable, (see list of criteria in the guidance document), and you need them to attend school from Tuesday 5th January. It is imperative that these forms be completed by **5pm on Sunday 3rd January**, giving us time to organise the groups and staffing.

Breakfast club will be open as usual, only for children of critical workers. Please indicate if you need breakfast club provision on the google form.

The government has stated that school-based nurseries in primary schools have discretion to follow arrangements for the primary school, therefore I regret to inform you that we will not be opening the nursery during this time, apart from children who are vulnerable or who have parents who are critical workers. We will also need to delay the new children who were due to start nursery for the time being, unless you are a critical worker or your child is vulnerable.

Please complete the google form if you need nursery provision as a critical worker/vulnerable child. I shall send Nursery parents a new letter once we receive more guidance from the government. We hope you understand this decision.

School lunches will continue to be provided for those children on site, (critical workers and vulnerable children) and we will continue to provide food parcels or vouchers for those families eligible for free school meals that are not at school. We are waiting for further guidance from the government whether this will be vouchers or the Morrison's food parcels that we used last term, for those children who were self-isolating. The school will contact you with more details once we have them.

These are strange and uncertain times for us all and we must do everything we can to keep our families and communities safe. Please continue to follow the guidance; wearing masks on site, maintaining social distancing and following the one-way systems etc.

If you need any help for your child/family please also use the wellbeing@bardfieldacademy.org email where a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Pastoral Care Team will be in touch. We are here to listen, support and help you all.

I wish you all a healthy and happier 2021!

Kind regards



Miss D Dry
Headteacher