



*Wisbech St. Mary
Church of England Academy*

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3rd January, 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you have been able to enjoy the Christmas break as much as possible. I am sure you will be aware of the very recent discussions, at national level, regarding the re-opening of schools for the spring term. We are now dealing with the response to government guidance released only days ago.

As a result, whilst we had hoped to open as expected on 4th January for Pre-School and the 5th January for Reception to Year 6, we are now unable to open due to staffing issues. I recognise the very significant inconvenience that this may cause, and for that I send my sincere apologies; please be assured that these decisions are not taken lightly, but our priority at all times must be the safety of our pupils and staff.

However, as of 5th January we will be providing remote learning for all classes, including Pre-School. Remote learning will be a blended approach of both live teaching (via Zoom) and independent learning activities set by the class teacher as outlined in my previous correspondence to you in the Autumn term. Your child's class teacher or key worker will be in contact with you tomorrow (4th January) with further details of the remote learning. All correspondence will be through the normal channels for your child's class (e.g. Tapestry or Dojo); class teachers can also be contacted via these platforms.

If you do not have access to a device (laptop/tablet) for your child to participate in remote learning or have limited internet service, please contact the school office at office@wsmacademy.cambs.sch.uk as soon as possible.

We remain open to all those children of key workers and those children considered 'vulnerable' (Pre-School to Year 6), and will be open for these pupils on 5th January. If you are a parent or carer of these pupils please refer to the following guidance:

- If you are a key worker or your child is considered 'vulnerable' and you intend for your child to attend school on Tuesday, 5th January, please email the school office by 12:00pm on Monday, 4th January on office@wsmacademy.cambs.sch.uk
- If you are unsure as to whether you fall into this category, please refer to the Government guidance on Key Workers: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>
- Children who are considered 'vulnerable' are expected to attend school as planned, unless they are in the CEV (clinically extremely vulnerable) category.
- Children of key workers or those considered 'vulnerable' should arrive at their normal time on 5th January and use their usual entrance.



I realise that this information is at short notice and contradictory to my previous email, but we continue to adapt to the circumstances as they arise, and we commit to communicating with you as quickly as possible in these fast-changing times.

If you have any questions about your child's return to school, or any other concerns or queries, please do get in contact with us on 01945 410 312 or email office@wsmacademy.cambs.sch.uk.

Thank you for your patience and understanding at this time; I look forward to speaking with you soon and to a brighter year ahead for us all in 2021.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss J Lynch

Headteacher

