



Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus update – School Closure

As advised by the Government, we will be closed to most pupils from tomorrow, but will do all we can to stay open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children from Wednesday.

All other children not meeting the criteria will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Tuesday 5th January onwards. The key principle is:

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

This is to ensure the safety of your children and your families and is critical to limit the spread of COVID-19. Only children for whom it is critical that they return to school on Wednesday should do so. For instance, if one parent is a critical worker, but the other is not then it would be reasonable to assume that the child could be safely looked after at home and there is no expectation that children of critical workers or vulnerable children have to attend school. (It does not affect attendance as these are exceptional times).

The Government has explained that priority is to be given to critical workers in the following sectors:

- Health and social care
- Education and child care
- Key public services
- Local and National Government
- Food distribution and other necessary goods
- Public safety and National security
- Transport – key air, water, road, rail networks
- Utilities, communication and financial services

They also state about providing care to vulnerable children who are defined as:

- Children with a social worker with a child in need or child protection plan
- Children with an EHCP (education, health and care plan)

If you feel you meet the criteria and have no other alternative care, please come to the school reception with evidence of your critical worker role to register your



child. The office will be open between 10.30am-12pm tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January). Alternatively, please email admin@millhillandwoodcroft.co.uk with identification and the filled in form or necessary information. It is vital that you register your child at these times so we can assess whether your child is eligible for a place. Then we can arrange suitable staffing as we also have a duty of care to our staff and their families at this time. There will be no other opportunity to do this and it will be highly unlikely that we can offer you a place if you do not register at these times. **The deadline is 12pm on Tuesday 5th January.** If you are eligible, we will make further contact with you regarding arrangements for Wednesday.

Please note that if you do not register or are not eligible and then send your child to school on Wednesday as normal, you will be required to collect them immediately to take them home again.

If your child usually receives free school meals, we will also be in touch when the Government outlines their plans, with more information about how we will continue to provide this.

We have created home learning packs that you will receive which will support your child's education while they remain at home as well as use our purple mash to set regular work for children. More details about the expectations of home learning will be sent out in the next couple days.

During this challenging time, please be assured we will do our best to support our families with our limited resources. We would like to thank so many of you who have shown your support to the school since September and wish the whole school community the very best during this current isolation period. We look forward to welcoming you all back as soon as we can.

Best wishes

Mrs Tracy Morgan and Mrs Samantha Watts

