



St Paul's C of E Infant School  
The Cardinals  
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Headteacher: Sue Brown

## Headteacher's Newsletter – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

I write to clarify the position regarding the return to school for children in our school.

Following yesterday's Government announcement, I can confirm that our school will be **open** as planned on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January and all children\* are expected to return. The Government has published a list of Local Authorities in Tier 4 where they feel primary schools should not reopen, and although Surrey is in Tier 4, it is **not** on that list. Therefore, our start to term will begin as planned on Tuesday.

\*Children who are deemed "clinically extremely vulnerable" will have received a letter from their doctor confirming this, and should not return yet. With regard to children whose parents are deemed clinically extremely vulnerable, the government guidance (published on 24<sup>th</sup> December) states "*Children and young people whose parents or carers are clinically extremely vulnerable can continue to go to school.*"

Staff who are deemed "clinically extremely vulnerable" will also have received a letter from their doctor confirming this and therefore deployment of staff may need to be changed for this purpose and to accommodate other absences i.e. isolating throughout the coming weeks. We will endeavour to keep as much continuity as possible for the children.

The confirmation that primary schools will open as usual next week will come as a relief to some families - and will create a great deal of anxiety to others. To those who feel anxious, please be assured that we are rigorously following the risk assessments and infection control measures laid down by the government, and will continue to keep these under review, following Government guidance. As a school we are committed to doing whatever we can to protect children and staff whilst doing our very best to deliver learning within the Government expectations.

We also have to be mindful that this is a changing situation, and the Government may make changes to their plans accordingly – which we will then have to implement. However, until that point, we have to work with the current expectations but will take this opportunity to assure you that we will be in touch if and when any further changes are made.

Consequently, all arrangements regarding drop off and pick up etc remain unchanged, so drop off at any time from 8.50-9.05 (no entry to the playground before 8.50am) and pick up at any time from 2.50-3.05pm (no entry to the playground before 2.50pm)

Please continue to help us by respecting the Government's directives on controlling the COVID pandemic.

Thank you for your ongoing support; this is a particularly challenging context for everyone, and your kind words and support mean a great deal.