



3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

First of all, please let me take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year! I hope you've managed to have a relaxing, if different, Christmas break.

I am sure, by now, you would have seen or heard about the difficulties facing schools at the moment and the decisions being made by the DfE.

I have been closely following the situation, whilst staying in touch with school staff in regards to their health and wellbeing.

As of yesterday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January, there were 10 staff who will not be in school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, due to either illness, positive COVID tests or having to self-isolate.

This puts the school in a precarious situation. We are unable to access agency staff for short periods of time as our children need consistent support, routines and structures. It also becomes a health and safety concern if we do not have enough appropriately trained staff in school to keep everyone safe.

We are also extremely concerned about the rise in transmission rates for COVID, the new strain plus the fact that Slough is in Tier 4.

I have been in discussion with the Chair of the Governing Body and Trust Board and we have agreed that in response to our risk assessment, in order to provide a consistent structure and routines and most importantly for pupils and staff to remain as safe as possible, from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Littledown will only be open to children of key workers and those who pupils who are more vulnerable. We will review this by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

Senior leaders have been or will be in contact to discuss this with you further. If your child is in the group of children risk assessed as needing to come in to school, but you do not want them to come in due to Health and Safety concerns, this your decision and one we will discuss through with you.

Please be assured that during these times we will not be issuing any fines for non-attendance and we will be working with you to ensure your child is still receiving education and well-being support.

The school will provide remote learning opportunities through Purple Mash. If you are unable to login, or have forgotten your password, please contact the school from 9.30am on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and we will support you in accessing this platform.

T: 01753 521734  
F: 01753 575338  
E: [post@littledown.slough.sch.uk](mailto:post@littledown.slough.sch.uk)  
W: [www.littledownschoool.co.uk](http://www.littledownschoool.co.uk)

**Littledown School**  
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If you are unable to access this platform at all, please let your class teacher know and we will get some printed work to you.

Class staff or key contacts will keep in touch with your child at least once a week, by phone.

We understand that this may provide some difficulties for you, however we need to ensure that the whole school population remains safe during these unprecedented times.

We continue to update you via letter, email, social media and phone during this time. Thanking you in advance for your support and understanding,

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Mumford', is placed on a light grey rectangular background.

Miss Angela Mumford  
Head Teacher

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