

THE VICTORY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Executive Principal: Mr. J.Hartley
Head of School: Mrs K Jones
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs V Gidney

04 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

R.E: Covid Update

Over the weekend we had to make some rapid decisions about the extent to which we could open the school. This is why:

You will be aware that it is the view of Public Health England advice that it is safe and appropriate for primary schools to be open. However, education trade unions are of the opinion that it is not safe to continue to keep schools open as they were before the holidays because of the rise in cases of the new Covid variant across the country and the subsequent risk to children, staff and their families. On Saturday, the main teaching union decided to ask its members not to work at school for the next two weeks unless there were changes to the school's risk assessment.

As a result, many schools have had to revert to remote learning. Our staff are concerned about the increased risk of catching Covid and the impact that this could have on themselves and family members. Therefore, we have had to divert some away from teaching their whole class to teaching smaller groups where they feel more safe. This means that we have had to close some classes to all except the children of key workers. Today we have all classes in years 1, 3 and 4 closed except for the children of key workers.

Now that we are clearer on the staff that we have available, we will be able to fully open **turtle class in year 3** from tomorrow. Year 1, year 3 octopus and year 4 will remain closed except for the children of key workers.

I need to be honest and warn you that in short term there is going to be more uncertainty. We are doing our best to stay open for those who need us, but it could be that we will need to close more year groups if our staffing situation changes. Likewise, following discussions with staff it might be that we are going to be able to get more children back in school. However, moving forward there is some reason to be optimistic as there is talk of school staff being given the vaccine earlier than first expected. We will keep you updated.

A further letter will follow to the parents of those children who are in Year 1, year 3 octopus and year 4.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Hartley', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Hartley
Executive Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K.L. Jones', written in a cursive style.

Mrs K Jones
Headteacher