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Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Like most of you, I have just watched the Prime Minister's announcement that schools are now closed until February half-term. The teachers have been in school today fully expecting and preparing to teach your children 'face to face' for at least this week – to say that we are surprised that we will not be reopening tomorrow is somewhat of an understatement! We are as equally frustrated by this change of plans as I'm sure you are.

So what happens next? School is closed to all pupils and we will switch to remote learning. We will be opening for the children of Key Workers and identified vulnerable children as soon as we possibly can. At this exact moment in time, our staffing is stretched and to safely offer provision for these groups in school, needs careful planning. Therefore, in consultation and agreement with the Chair of Governors, **the school will be closed to ALL PUPILS tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January).**

Tomorrow morning, the Senior Leadership Team will be making arrangements to open the school for children of Key Workers and Vulnerable children. Please look out for communication regarding this as it will require you to respond quickly if you are eligible for this and require it. Our aim is to reopen to these groups on Wednesday 6th January.

Teachers will be organising the remote learning and our aim is to have this available by lunchtime on Tuesday.

We are currently not sure what the requirements for Free School Meals are. As such, we are not in a position to plan for this right now and will communicate this as soon as we are able to.

We will be sending out further information tomorrow. School leaders found out about this at exactly the same time as everyone else and it really is a ridiculous situation to be placed in. However, despite the inconveniences that we will all face tomorrow, I urge you to shield your children from worry, and find the positives. Nobody can take any satisfaction from this situation, it is highly frustrating, upsetting and needs to end. Stay safe, stay positive and we will get through this. Please keep checking for updates throughout the day tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Waller

