

Dear all,

Further to yesterday's announcement I would like to give you all an update on how this affects Priory.

Slough stays in tier 4 but infection rate is not high enough to trigger a delay in returning back to school, therefore, **school will be open to pupils from the 5th January 2021.**

However, despite this we continue to receive notifications of positive tests in both staff and pupils and this is already causing some disruption to staffing levels on return to school. **I do expect that we will face continued disruption and the need to close bubbles.** We all need to be prepared for this and ready when it happens so that we can minimize the impact on our pupils learning but also on our routines and work as well.

My SLT and I have met to discuss the increase in infections recently, we are not the only ones as you are probably aware, even the premier league with all their testing capacity are being hit hard this time. I also appreciate that many people feel anxious about the current situation and we must acknowledge this – nothing is more important than our health and those of our loved ones. We must do what we can to protect our most vulnerable. However hard we try we are not going to be able to eliminate all risk of preventing the transmission of this disease but we need to be ready and prepared.

Therefore, we have discussed some preliminary thoughts and plans to be as Covid ready as we can be. When we come back in January we will fully update our risk assessments and re-issue them to you. Some of the changes will include:

- Robust remote learning plan that caters for all needs and provides pupils with meaningful learning opportunities and feedback from staff.
- We will issue an online form that parents will fill out providing the school with all the information we need when someone tests positive.
- We have restructured staffing to allow for additional cover so that the impact of staff absence can be minimized.
- We will no longer have any staff crossing bubbles at any point
- We are considering a way of providing lunch in classrooms to minimize the crossing of classes during lunch time and reducing staff from crossing bubbles.
- There will **be no extended care/ breakfast club** initially but this will be reviewed each month and will be restarted as soon as we can safely do so.

Please can I remind parents that if someone in your family has symptoms or you are waiting on a test result – **you must not send your child/ren into school.**

As Boris says – the light is at the end of the tunnel and we are slowly creeping towards freedom from this virus, I suspect that we are in for a rough few weeks and we all need to dig deep and see it through together.

I do hope you have all had a good rest over the Christmas break and you and your families are well. I thank you for your continued support and wish you a very Happy New Year.

Mrs Hannah Gates

