

11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parents and carers of children in 4 Birch,

You will probably be aware, from the letters that I have sent out recently, that our situation in school is changing rapidly in relation to COVID-19. We have significant staff absence at the current time due to staff having to self-isolate, either due to having symptoms/positive cases in their family or due to contact from Test & Trace.

We do not feel that employing a large number of supply staff to cover the absences is advisable, since this will bring considerable additional risk into the school, but we only have limited capacity for supply cover within our own staff team. Today we have just managed to provide adequate staffing, with six class bubbles closed, however, the situation is changing by the hour.

Your child's teachers are currently unwell or self-isolating so we have had to make the decision to close 4 Birch and move the class to remote learning on Google Classroom for the rest of this term. 4 Birch will return to school in the new year. The children **do not** need to self-isolate – they need to learn at home due to staff shortages.

Lessons will be posted on Google Classroom each day for the children to complete. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer any live sessions or provide feedback on your child's learning at this point, however, the work will be assessed by the teacher to inform lesson planning for the spring term.

I am sorry for any inconvenience caused over this period. I hope you understand that this is a challenging time, as we balance risk to staff and children with the importance of our children being in school, and the impact of self-isolating or contracting COVID-19 over the Christmas period when so many families want to spend time with their loved ones.

Please be assured that we are reviewing the situation constantly and seeking advice from the Local Authority and Public Health to ensure we make the best decisions for our school community.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sansom

Headteacher