



# Woolton High School

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**Headteacher:** Mr M.E. Christian. B Ed (Hons), NPQH, GSM.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year, I do hope that you all had a good Christmas break.

As you are all now aware, the government has again decided to move us all to tighter restrictions by imposing school closures again to children in mainstream schools for the remainder of this half term in response to the increasing numbers of the new variant of Covid-19 that are being reported locally, nationally and across the world.

The government has also declared that all special schools should remain open so that we can continue to try to educate all pupils that have an EHCP, either face to face in school or by providing work for them to complete at home. That is why staff contacted all families today in an attempt to determine the numbers of children that we will need to accommodate in school from tomorrow. With this in mind, we are still committed to opening school but we will need to do so carefully and cautiously, paying strict attention to all of the Covid measures that were put in place for our wider opening of school in June. We have revisited these measures as a staff team and will continue to promote these measures for the whole school community.

We may need to make changes to the normal curriculum offer as we had to when we worked from March onwards and we are still working on the details of this and will keep everybody in the picture as we go. One big change that we do need to put in place immediately is to shorten our school day so that taxis will bring to school for normal time in the morning, but will begin to arrive at school from 12.30pm to bring home. This will allow us to ensure that the pupils that are attending school are getting lunch before coming home, but will also give staff the opportunity to clean down all areas used, then prepare, distribute and support those learners whose families have chosen to keep them at home at this time.

As was the case in the previous national lockdown, parents/carers will not be fined or reported to the Attendance Welfare Service if you choose to keep your child at home. We will of course aim to touch base with each pupil that is Home-Learning on a daily basis to check on any welfare issues and support wherever possible with the learning that they have been given.

We have again updated the school's Risk Assessment document, which will be published on the school website shortly.

As you can imagine, hygiene and cleanliness are again going to be major factors in the fight against the potential spread of this virus, so we are relying on your support to ensure that all children coming into school having showered in the morning and are wearing a clean uniform every day. This means that if your child only has the one uniform, it will have to be washed daily upon his return home from school.

On an important social distancing point regarding physical intervention / restraint, in the current climate we have to be clear that where any pupil is repeatedly acting in a manner that directly compromises the safe working practices of school staff in light of Covid-19, the school reserves the right to assess the risk that any child is presenting and may decide that we cannot meet the needs of that child on-site during this latest pandemic period. In this eventuality, that child would need to be educated at home for the foreseeable future. I hope that this will not be the case for any learner.

Best wishes and please stay safe,

Yours sincerely,

Head teacher