



& NURSERY

Make a difference. Be outstanding.

4th January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

I really hope you and your family have enjoyed the Christmas break, despite the Tier 4 restrictions placed on us all this year. It was definitely a lot quieter than it normally is at Christmas and New Year!

Since the recent news that all London Primary Schools have closed for the beginning of term, I have been waiting for further advice and announcements from the Government about other Tier 4 schools to share with you.

This is due to the rising levels of infection caused by the new variant and follows advice to staff that is not safe for us to return to teach such large number of children in a class. The unions have followed the science of SAGE who do not believe that schools should open until at least mid-January. As a result, we are short of staff to cover all classes.

However, we do have the capacity to **welcome back Year 6**. They will return, tomorrow, on **Tuesday 5th January** at their normal time of **8.50 a.m. to 3.15 p.m.** All Year 6 pupils are expected to return back to full time school hours, unless they are clinically extremely vulnerable. There is no guarantee that this will not change again but I will communicate any changes as soon as I possibly can.

From tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January, all 'Key Worker' children are also invited back into school. If you think this applies to you then please contact the school office, by telephone to book a place. The temporary hours for key worker pupils will be from 9.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m. Children only will need to enter and exit through their normal school gates. To reduce adult to adult contact staff will collect the children from the gates. No parents or carers will be allowed on the school site in the morning. Plenty of staff will be around to help them to their class bubbles.

Education will continue for the rest of the children as we will be offering remote learning from Wednesday 6th January. We hope and expect that this way of working will only be temporary as the vaccination is now being rolled out and hopefully this new infection wave will soon be brought under control. Teachers will be in contact with you tomorrow, by telephone, to share the learning expectations for your child. In the meantime, you can go onto the school website www.arundelcourt.com and access a range of online learning resources available there. These can be found under the 'parent zone'.

If you do not have a laptop or device at home, please call the school office and we will try our best to lend a laptop to you. You will need to sign a loan agreement before we can hand it over.

The school will also be in touch with you if your child is eligible for a FSM (based on benefits income) as you will be entitled to a free food hamper for the two-week period.

With 75% of our country, including Portsmouth, within Tier 4 together with coronavirus infections surging it has naturally caused many people to become more anxious at this time. Please be assured that your child's health and wellbeing is at the heart of what we do and keeping them as safe as possible is our top priority in school. With this in mind, today staff have reviewed all our procedures and strategies again at Arundel Court.

Headteacher: Miss K Stocks B.Ed (hons), NPQH

Deputy Headteachers: Mrs A P Venugopal M.Ed, NPQH
Mrs K Dixon B.Ed (hons), NPQSL

Proud to be part of the **UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER** ACADEMY TRUST





& NURSERY

Fyning Street

Landport, Portsmouth

PO1 1FG arundeli@arundelcourt.com

Tel: (023) 9282 4893

www.arundelcourt.com



Make a difference. Be outstanding.

- Please ensure that you continue to support the health and safety of both children and staff by wearing a face mask whilst on the school site, follow the displayed one way signs and by social distancing whilst waiting to collect your children.
- Cleaners remain on site cleaning throughout the school day. All classrooms and communal areas have cleaning kits/hygiene boxes.
- Children will remain in their key worker bubbles at all times, including playtimes and lunchtime, where hot meals are delivered daily.
- Children will be required to wear full school uniform on a daily basis. Year 6 will continue to follow their normal timetable and will be required to wear a warm PE kit on their PE day. It's important that children wear warm clothes, including extra layers under their uniform to keep them warm in the ventilated classrooms.
- Parents and staff will continue to remind Year 6 children to go straight home or come straight into school and not mix with other children from other households outside of school hours.

If I hear of any more changes I will communicate asap via social media, emails and the school website, but please bear with us as the government keep changing their messages by the hour!

Let's hope and pray things will get better and back to normal as we begin our new journey into the new year. Remember, 2021 is only just reloading! It may take some time to activate and get back to normal again!



Look forward to seeing you all soon. Please look after yourselves, take care and keep safe.

Kind Regards



Mrs Karen Stocks
Headteacher

Headteacher: Miss K Stocks B.Ed (hons), NPQH

Deputy Headteachers: Mrs A P Venugopal M.Ed, NPQH
Mrs K Dixon B.Ed (hons), NPQSL

Proud to be part of the **UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER** ACADEMY TRUST

