

Shaw Wood Academy

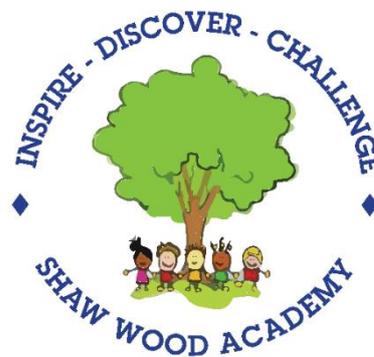
INSPIRE-DISCOVER-CHALLENGE

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4th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Please read the full contents of this letter carefully as it contains important information about changes we have had to make in school.

Firstly, I am pleased to let you know that, following a significant amount of consultation and planning we are able to open Shaw Wood to all children.

There have however been very understandable concerns expressed by many staff about the safety of teaching large groups of children in relatively small spaces and, as a consequence we have made changes to the way we space children throughout the school for teaching input.

Where we have larger classes, or where members of staff have specific concerns around vulnerability, we will split classes into smaller groups and utilise all available and additional space in school. All work will be planned and assessed by teachers – your child may however be taught by one of our excellent teaching support staff during the day in a separate area. Children will still be able to play together outside at break and lunchtimes. This system will remain in place until at least February half term.

Staff have been instructed to ensure learning areas are well ventilated and this may mean that they can become quite cold. It is important therefore that, in addition to their school uniform, children bring an additional fleece with them so that they are warm. Teachers will inform parents separately about any changes to arrangements for P.E.

All arrangements for coming to and for leaving school will remain the same.

Where children have to remain at home our staff will do all they can to provide quality online home learning. Parents will however need to understand that teaching full time in school where possible will be our priority and that online learning cannot replace, or be expected to replace, face to face teaching.

Teachers are entitled to half a day each week during which time they plan lessons, assess learning and complete additional preparation for individual children – for example those with special needs. In 'normal' times staff are released by support staff to complete this work but this is not possible with the limitations placed upon us by Covid. **We will therefore have to revert to closing at 12 noon on Friday each week from Friday 8th January until at least Friday 12th February.** Whilst I understand that this may cause issues for some families in terms of childcare it does mean that we can hopefully keep school open for all.

We have arranged for emergency cover if needed for classes but this can only be in place in the very short term. If a teacher or support staff member becomes ill for any length of time that group of children will have to be sent home as we simply do not have the capacity to cover.

I want to assure all parents that we are working very hard to maintain good quality education for all our children and that we will continue to do so. I very much hope that you support us with the actions we have taken to achieve this.

Kind regards

Jo Campbell



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