

5th January 2021

Outwood Academy Hemsworth

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Principal: Mr Toby Rutter

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wrote to you last week following the Government's announcement just before the New Year about when pupils would return to school this term.

I am sorry to be writing to you again so soon on this subject. However, as you may have seen, the Prime Minister yesterday announced a new national lockdown because of rising infection rates of Covid-19 and to try to prevent the further spread of the virus.

As part of this, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in England, including our school, Outwood Academy Hemsworth, are to be closed from today until at least the end of half term in February, except for children of key workers or vulnerable children. Early years settings remain open.

The Prime Minister also announced that "not all exams" would go ahead as normal this year and that there would be alternative arrangements. He said the Government would set out further details on this at a later date, and when that information is announced, we will update parents of students due to take exams this year. In the meantime ALL pupils must engage with their online learning via Google Classroom.

From today Tuesday 5th January 2021:

If you or your partner is a key worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the school will remain open, as now, and we look forward to seeing them in school today and beyond as normal for teaching and learning.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school as safe as possible, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the safety measures in place at our school:

- All students and staff must wear a face covering in communal areas, unless exempt
- Everyone is expected to remain in their allocated bubbles
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day

Please note we are trying to work with windows open in classrooms for ventilation. As the cold days have returned, and with the need for ventilation in mind, pupils may need a few more layers of clothing, such as sweatshirts, tights or leggings underneath skirts or plain fleeces without a hood or large brand logos.

For all other pupils, our school is closed until at least the end of the February half-term. High-quality remote learning will be provided to make sure they continue to receive a consistent education. We know that this places pressure on you at a difficult time but your support in helping your child engage with the remote learning packs as much as possible is so important and we are very grateful for it.

Home Learning

We have previously communicated with you to explain what the process will be for setting work for students during the enforced closure. Therefore, whilst at home, Google Classroom is the means by which teachers will set work for their classes. In order for parents/carers to support their children at home, we have created a [Home Learning webpage](http://homelearning.outwood.com) (homelearning.outwood.com) which provides you with guidance on how to access Google Classroom with your child.

If your child is unable to log into Google Classroom (for example, if they have forgotten their password) please contact Gary Ives: g.ives@hemsworth.outwood.com. For those students who we have already identified as not being able to access Google Classroom at home, the academy will be in contact with you directly.

We will continue to stay in touch with you on this matter, and about your child's education. However, do let me know if you would like to discuss this matter, or if you require any support relating to these new arrangements.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation. Please continue to take care and to stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



T Rutter
Principal
Outwood Academy Hemsworth