

# Maiden Beech Academy

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4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **IMPORTANT: The Prime Minister's Announcement re: National Lockdown and School closures**

I am dismayed that despite the government having had the opportunity over the prior weekend and indeed the past two weeks to make a decision about the opening of primary schools, I am writing to you on the evening before a number of children are supposed to come in to school to inform you that **from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January we will be closed to all but critical worker's children and children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) – please see details below**

I am sure that you have been watching the Prime Minister's televised speech this evening wondering what it will mean for your child's education and school opening. I too have been watching and am now able to confirm that from tomorrow, we will be closed to the majority of pupils and will be switching to remote learning. This announcement now supersedes the information shared in my letter to all parents and carers earlier today

I appreciate your frustration with the short notice of this announcement, and apologise for the inevitable logistical problems it is likely to cause you; however, I know you understand that this situation and the poor timing is not of our making.

**As before, the school will be open for children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils only until further notice.** The Government definitions for critical workers remain unchanged; if you are currently working in a role that was previously considered to be a critical worker role, your child can attend school – if you are unsure whether or not you are eligible, please check the definition of a critical worker using the following link:

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)

### **Year 5 & 6 Children**

Children in Year 5 and Year 6 **should not attend** school tomorrow (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January) as previously advised. **However, parents who are critical workers and have no other option for tomorrow can bring their son or daughter to school if there is no other alternative and we do our best to accommodate.**

If you are a critical worker, please contact the school tomorrow to register an interest and advise us of your following requirements, so that we can plan accordingly:

- Which days you would like your son or daughter to attend school.
- What time (7:30 AM onwards) you require childcare from and what time you need childcare to (we will provide cover until 6:00 PM).
- Your job/role (see definition above).

You can contact the school using the following method of communication:

- Parent Portal message –preferred option
- Email: [office@maidenbeech.net](mailto:office@maidenbeech.net)
- Phone reception: 01460 72677



## **Year 7 & 8 Children**

Children of critical workers or those deemed vulnerable in Year 7 and Year 8 **should attend** school tomorrow (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January) as previously agreed.

All other secondary age children will be taught remotely for the foreseeable future as previously agreed.

### **Children eligible to attend school**

Children eligible to attend school do not need to wear formal uniform. This makes it easier to regularly clean clothes and for the children to engage in practical activities.

**Packed lunches:** Children attending school should bring a drink, packed lunch and a break-time snack. We hope to provide food onsite eventually but in the interim it would be helpful if parents could provide this until arrangements are in place.

### **Access to online learning**

We are aware that a number of families do struggle with remote learning when it is based exclusively on-line and as a result we will provide hardcopies of resources as before – please contact us to let us know if you require this option ASAP so we can provide you with the relevant work packs.

### **Free School Meal provision**

Information with regard to free school meal provision will be sent out as soon as we have been provided with an update by the Department for Education (DfE)

We will place regular up-dates with regard to school opening/full re-opening online via the Parent Portal and the school website.

We will also use our social media accounts to share information:

**Facebook:** Maiden Beech Academy @maidenbeechacademy

**Twitter:** @MaidenBeechAcad

Thank you for your continued understanding and support during these unprecedented times.

Stay safe and take care

Best Wishes



Carl Winch  
Head teacher