

Thursday, 07 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Further to my letter earlier this week, I write as promised to give you an update regarding pupils returning to school. During the course of this week, I have already had to re-draft this letter on a number of occasions to keep up to date with both national and local directives and guidance. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

All children by nature of an EHCP are considered vulnerable and the Government's advice is that they should be in school where this is practical. Arbour Vale School is an extremely large school with a broad range of 'complexity of needs' with underlying medical conditions where some children identify as 'Clinically Extremely Vulnerable' (CEV). Combined with other operational issues at this moment in time, the school has had to prioritise those children in Nursery, plus those identified as 'most' vulnerable or children of 'Keyworkers'. With effect from 12.30pm Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January, these groups of children will be able to attend school. Your child's class teacher will be in touch today to discuss arrangements regarding transport, timing of the day and school lunches. Please do not send your child into school if you have not been contacted by the class teacher today. Please note that your child and anyone else in the house must be free of any Covid-19 symptoms. Unfortunately, Arbour Vale is currently unable to offer Lateral Flow Testing to secondary school children, although this situation is being reviewed. All staff are being given the opportunity to undertake a flow test on a regular basis at school.

We are confident that school will be open to more children week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January and further information will be available next week. If you need any immediate help with school attendance, please contact Michelle Healy Wallis on 07519 130633 or use the [covid19information@arbourvaleschool.org](mailto:covid19information@arbourvaleschool.org)

We are all committed to supporting your child's learning and know the importance of regular school attendance. Staff and members of Pinnacle Facilities Management are endeavouring to make the site as safe as possible and minimise the risk of infection spreading. A detailed site Risk Assessment can be found on the website. In addition, we have identified specific classroom bubbles with a staff team that will not be moved around the school into different classes/facilities. This action alone may cause staffing issues and it may be necessary to temporarily close a class.

All pupils unable to attend school due to Covid-19 or school operational issues will have resources provided for home learning. Your class teacher will ensure that you have access to learning. Class teachers will make weekly 'keeping in touch' phone calls to keep you updated.

Yours sincerely



**Neil Sykes**  
Principal