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Dear Parents and Carers

I write to clarify the position regarding the return to school next week for children at Furzefield.

Following Wednesday’s Government announcement, we can confirm that our school will be **open** as planned on Monday 4th January and all children are expected to return. The Government has published a list of Local Authorities in Tier 4 where they feel primary schools should not reopen, and although Surrey is in Tier 4, it is **not** on that list. Therefore, our start to term will begin as planned on 4th January.

Children who are deemed “clinically extremely vulnerable” will have received a letter from their doctor confirming this, and should not return on 4th January. With regard to children whose parents are deemed clinically extremely vulnerable, the DfE’s guidance (published on 24th December) states “*Children and young people whose parents or carers are clinically extremely vulnerable can continue to go to school.*”

Staff who are deemed “clinically extremely vulnerable” will also have received a letter from their doctor confirming this and therefore deployment of staff will need to be changed for this purpose and to accommodate other absences i.e. isolating throughout the coming weeks. We will endeavour to keep as much continuity as possible for the children, but need to be clear that currently this may not always be possible to achieve; keeping classes open will be our first priority.

The confirmation that primary schools will open as usual on Monday will come as a relief to some families - and will create a great deal of anxiety to others. To those who feel anxious, please be assured that we are rigorously following the risk assessments and infection control measures laid down by the DfE, and will continue to keep these under review, following Government guidance. As a school we are committed to doing whatever we can to protect children and staff whilst doing our very best to deliver learning within the Government expectations.

We also have to be mindful that this is a changing situation, and the Government may make changes to their plans accordingly - which we will then have to implement. However, until that point, we have to work with the current expectations but will take this opportunity to assure you that we will be in touch if and when any further changes are made.

Consequently, please assume all arrangements regarding drop off and pick up etc remain the same as they were at the end of last term.

Please continue to help us by respecting the Government’s directives on controlling the COVID pandemic.

Thank you for your ongoing support; this is a particularly challenging context for everyone, and your kind words and support mean a great deal.

Kind regards

Susan Chrysanthou
 Headteacher

