

4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

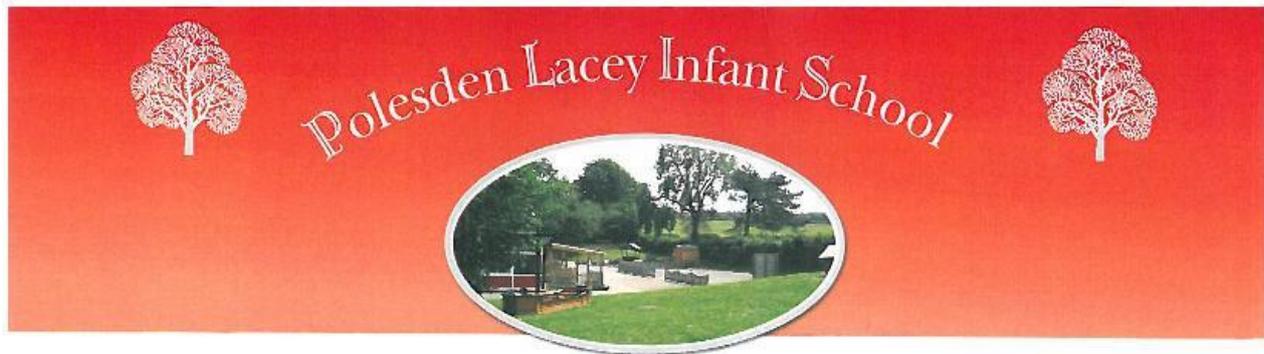
Following tonight's announcement from the Prime Minister, issuing the 'Stay at Home' order with effect from midnight, it is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you that Polesden Lacey Infant School will be closed from Tuesday 5th January until February Half term for all children except: children who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), children whose parent's/carer's work is critical to the coronavirus and EU transition response and children who are identified as vulnerable according to the government criteria.

As you will be aware we have our remote learning plan in place and teachers will provide details of this week's learning by Wednesday morning. The staff spent today preparing for the children to be in school tomorrow (in good faith that we would be welcoming the children back in person). Therefore, they will be preparing the current online learning for the children tomorrow morning and will communicate with you via Tapestry (for Reception children) or Google Classroom (for Year 1 and 2 children).

Although remote education is in place and we are mindful of the very heavy emphasis that the Government is placing on staying at home, if at all possible, in order to control the transmission of the virus – we are aware that there will be some children who will require a place in school under the provisions for 'critical workers' and 'vulnerable' children.

To that end, we ask that you complete the Google form (<https://forms.gle/bBwYfhcpZQREhqqE7>) by 1pm on Tuesday 5th January for us to have a full picture of the demand for places. By having a sense of numbers, this will enable us to plan how we will deploy our staff and available learning spaces in a COVID-safe way that minimises risk for those who have to be in school.

Head Teacher: Ms Rebecca Mole



However - If you know that you would be keeping your child at home, either through not being eligible or because you would choose to do so anyway, there is no need to complete the survey

To help decide if you have a child that is eligible for a place you can find details of the definitions of 'vulnerable' children and 'critical workers' here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Please note that apart from children who currently have an allocated Social Worker, and children with an EHCP (you will know if that is your child) the rest of the examples are at the discretion of the school, although we hope that we are able to support all those who need a place.

We will use the day tomorrow to allocate staff to working with the pupils who need to be in school over the coming weeks and parents will be contacted to confirm a place for their children during the day on Tuesday with a start date of Wednesday 6th January.

Thank you to those who have sent messages of support and kindness – they are very much appreciated. Please pass on to your children that we are looking forward to seeing them, either online or in person and we have lots of great learning and fun activities planned for them in the coming weeks.

Take care and stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rebecca Mole'.

Rebecca Mole

Headteacher

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