

Dear Parents

Following advice to school teachers from education unions, I am writing to inform you that ***Sholing Infant School will no longer be opening for all pupils on Tuesday January 5th.***

We will be opening only for children of critical workers and vulnerable children (those with EHCPs, children with a social worker and children eligible for Free School Meals) Other pupils will be offered remote learning, with lessons planned and delivered by school staff, and pupils provided with feedback on their work. The remote learning offer will follow the National Curriculum objectives that children would have been covering had they been in school, and will mirror what children in school will be learning.

School staff want all children to be in school. We know that nothing can replace face to face teaching but we also have to ensure that staff and pupils are safe. Union advice to school teachers points to the increased transmission rates of the new variant strain of Covid -19 currently recorded across England and the most recent SAGE advice. This concludes that it is not safe for staff to be in school teaching whole classes, under Health and safety regulations.

Children in school

Children of critical workers and vulnerable children will continue to be taught in class bubbles with their class teacher and Teaching Assistant. HLTAs who work across a single year group may also teach classes on occasions. Children will continue to have the same start and finish times and the existing lunch arrangements will continue. Please complete this linked form if your child qualifies for a vulnerable or critical worker place: <https://forms.gle/6VYd72tDGhaLaaZ9> by midday on 4/1/21

The following link provides an updated list of critical workers for you to refer to when requesting a place under this category.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision>

Children not in school

Remote learning will be offered amounting to approximately three hours of learning each day. More details regarding this will be sent to parents on Monday. Any child entitled to free school meals, not able to attend school, will receive a weekly food hamper. Further details to be sent out once we have liaised with City Catering, our meals provider, tomorrow.

Southampton City Council have informed Headteachers that no Penalty notices will be issued for non-attendance over the next two weeks

I appreciate that this is disappointing for parents, school staff and children alike, but please be assured that this action has not been taken lightly. It has been so rewarding for us to see the progress that children made last term after a long period of home learning and it is with a very heavy heart that I share this update with you.

Regards

Lisa Houghton

Headteacher
Sholing Infant School