



## January 2021 –School closed to pupils Monday 4<sup>th</sup>

### Message

Dear Parents and carers,

I am sure like me, you will have been keeping an eye on the news today!

A number of things have happened during the day:

Some unions have challenged the Government claiming that schools should not be reopening. Several have written to their members informing that they have the right, under the Health and Safety act at work, not to be at work if they feel their place of work is unsafe.

Following staff meetings that have been held today – a large majority of staff have invoked this right. It is with great reluctance that the governors and I have made the decision to close the school to pupils as we do not have enough staff to cover class based learning. Online learning will commence on Tuesday and we will update you of our position on Wednesday afternoon.

The Government has already backed down in relation to primary schools in London, and it is possible that even with so few hours to go before special schools are due to start the new term, announcements may be made.

At present we are working towards opening the school to pupils as soon as we have sufficient staffing numbers. We are reviewing students risk assessments and developing processes for mass testing.

Please rest assured that we will continue to do everything possible to keep our students, families and staff safe. The wellbeing team will be in touch over the next few days. Please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Kind Regards

Caroline Rowlandson

Headteacher.