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Richmond Park School,
Carmarthen



11th December 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

As many of you will be aware, Gareth Morgans Director of Education, announced last night that it is at the discretion of the Heads as to whether they choose to close early as of Tuesday next week.

At this present moment in time we have a full complement of staff (bar our Assessment and Observation Unit) and no live Covid cases. I have spoken to Mr Cooper and Mrs Peters and the Chair of Governors and have taken the decision to keep our mainstream classes open but close our Unit. We will however be taking additional precautions to mitigate further risks of infection as the cases rise within our community. I know this decision will not sit well with some families and you may well decide to keep your children at home anyway as of today. If you do choose to then I can confirm that all absences will be authorised and there will be no repercussions due to absence. Please note however, that Blended Learning is not available next week to those children whose parents choose to keep them off school.

Further mitigation of risks for next week:

- There will be **no Breakfast Club** so school will open for pupils as of 8.45am and not before
- We will completely minimise pupil movement around school **with lunches being eaten on sanitised desks in class** instead of the staggered hall sittings we presently have.
- We ask **ALL children to bring in packed lunches** as there is no catering on site. All FSM children will have payments made to bank accounts and therefore a packed lunch needs to be brought into school.
- **Breaktime contact on the playground is reduced** further and interventions are cancelled
- The **staffroom will be closed again to all staff**
- We ask all our **KS2 children to wear face coverings in school** please as this will also help transferring coughs and colds before Christmas
- We ask all **Parents to wear face coverings on the school site** – even outdoors as the Local Authority requested some weeks back.
- **After School Club** will continue for Monday to Thursday BUT will be shut on Friday 18th December HOWEVER we will adhere strictly to the booking system and capacity numbers
- **The office will NOT be staffed next week** so please do not request early pick up of your child as this will not be possible to facilitate. All pick ups are via the KS2 playground at the rear of the school.

Thank you in anticipation for your understanding. I will update you as and when more information comes to light regarding school in January 2021. At the moment we expect to see children and staff return to school on Tuesday January 5th 2021.

Kind regards,

Helen Luff ~ Strategic Headteacher

