

# Carwarden House Community School

118, Upper Chobham Road

Camberley

Surrey

GU15 1EJ

T: 01276 709080

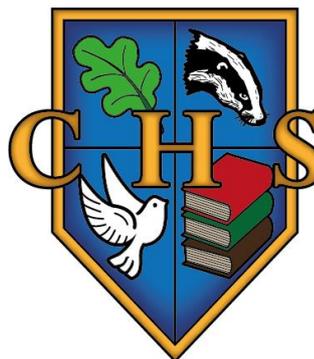
F: 01276 709081

E: [info@carwarden.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@carwarden.surrey.sch.uk)

W: [www.carwarden.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.carwarden.surrey.sch.uk)

@CarwardenHouse

Headteacher: Tim Stokes



small community **thinking big**

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the PM's announcement last night on a new 'national lockdown' for England, including the closure of all schools, I am writing to clarify the arrangements at Carwarden until at least the February half-term.

As of today, **only the children of critical (key) workers and students identified on our updated risk assessment as 'vulnerable' will be attending school.** This may include students where there are significant concerns about mental health or where we deem that they may be safer at school (e.g. there is a serious risk of domestic violence in the home).

There will therefore be no return to school for other students next week as previously announced in my letter to you on the 31<sup>st</sup> December. I'm sorry this is yet another change in direction but I'm sure you understand I am responding to updated guidance and requirements as they are issued.

Like the majority of education professionals, I firmly believe that all students benefit massively from being in school but we are now required to urgently respond to the new 'crisis' related to COVID-19 by closing our school to all but a reduced number of students. Special Schools are just as much likely to be 'vectors of infection spread' (to quote the PM) as any other school. And critically our staff are just as much at risk as staff in other schools and more so now due to the increased virulence of the new variant of coronavirus sweeping the country.

I really do understand how difficult and potentially stressful this will be for many families. This enforced return to the lockdown situation of earlier last year with many parents having to work from home whilst 'juggling' the childcare needs of their children will undoubtedly be highly challenging. However, it was the strictest possible measures of that lockdown that drove down infections rates then and we must be confident will again. Together we just need to weather the tough few months ahead with the knowledge that vaccinations are on their way.

I have today written to the Local Authority and the Department for Education to say that if our staff are provided the vaccination then I would be far more confident to fully open the school to all students sooner rather than later.

### **Remote / home learning**

Unlike the situation we faced in March last year, we are far more prepared this time to deliver effective remote learning to your child whilst they are out of school. We have developed our expertise and the resources needed to deliver a programme of home learning that will engage your child, continue their education, limit the chances of 'learning loss' and reduce potential stress and/or anxiety for them related to the lockdown. It was brilliant to know that the vast majority of our students engaged in virtual learning opportunities throughout the day yesterday and we know even more are joining in this today.

I would like to stress that engaging with our home learning offer is not a matter of 'choice' for our students but a clear expectation. We will be monitoring every student's level of engagement and are required to report on their 'attendance' to their scheduled sessions. We continue to work with the families where we know there are challenges for their child to access on-line resources and Zoom teaching sessions. The PM said yesterday that the Government will be providing more IT kit to families who need it. We will make sure we engage with any new scheme as soon as it is announced to secure whatever is available to make sure everyone of our students can benefit from remote learning. Please remember your child can access Zoom sessions from a mobile phone even if they don't have an iPad or laptop.

You will have received yesterday a consent request form for 'Seesaw'. Please return this as soon as possible so we can begin to use this tool to support your child's education in the near future.

Please see below the latest guidance on the national lockdown:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/949536/NationalLockdownGuidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949536/NationalLockdownGuidance.pdf)

Kind regards and stay safe,

Tim

T S Stokes  
Headteacher

