**School closure – January 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, a very happy new year to you all - I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and that you and your families are all safe and well.

Over the course of the weekend, unions contacted all staff who work at schools. Their advice to colleagues is to work remotely for the time being. Having gathered as much information as possible in a short time span, the Trust and I are now in a position to make a final decision. Based on the low numbers of staffing at Rowley Park Academy, we are unable to reopen for at least the next two weeks. This situation will be kept under constant review and I will keep you informed of any changes. I know this causes inconvenience for many of you and for that I can only apologise. This is not a decision taken lightly. We have no choice - I understand that this is a very worrying time for you as parents and we will continue to support you as much as we can.

**Critical worker/Vulnerable group**

As in the previous school closure back in March, Rowley Park will run a key children group. Places within this group are for children of critical workers and those classed as vulnerable – SEND and children will other needs. Places need to be arranged with the school office or SLT – you cannot just turn up. So we can plan for this, please fill out the form available on our website and send it to headteacher@rowleyparkacademy.org.uk We will then be in touch tomorrow with arrangements for the key children group. This provision will begin on Wednesday 6th January as we take tomorrow to make the necessary plans. I apologise for not being able to begin this immediately.All children will be remote learning on Tuesday 5th January.

We will not be able to offer wraparound for the next two weeks. The provision will be open from 8.30am – 3.15am.

**Remote learning - Please see the remote learning plan that is on the school website.**

Remote learning will be set by the teachers daily on Tapestry for N, R, Year 1 and on Showbie for Y2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Showbie is a tool for teachers to set work and give children feedback. It is not a tool for parents to communicate with teachers about anything other than the children’s work. The children’s passwords for this, as well as my maths, TTrockstars, spelling shed are stuck in the front of their homework diaries.

The work set will be a reflection of their normal school day with work being set for core lessons (Maths, English, phonics, reading) and NICER challenge pack/foundation subjects. Children will need to attend a morning registration where the teacher will explain the tasks and will be able to attend a daily drop in with their teacher to discuss learning, to gain support or to complete a set task with their teacher – reading, social game etc…. These will be held via zoom – an email will be sent with the link and the session time for you.

It is compulsory, that children complete the work that is set and share it with their teacher and in turn the teacher will give feedback and support your child’s learning. Children have already missed so much school in 2020 and now again, we would like to work with parents to ensure the engagement is as high as possible.

We will continue to support our families as much as we possibly can during this time. If you require any of the following, please let us know this information as soon as possible via the office or the email address below and we will get back to you as soon as possible:

* Free school meals – we will be providing food parcels for those that are entitled to it. If your financial circumstances have changed and you would like a food parcel, please make us aware so that we can support where possible.
* Resources – we will be providing resource packs for those that require it – it will include a workbook, pen, pencil, rubber, sharpener etc…
* Access to home learning – From previous bubble closures we are aware of those that have accessed this before, should you require any support accessing home learning please let us know.

**Who should I speak to if I have questions or concerns?**

Although school is closed, senior leaders and staff will be calling and keeping in contact to offer support and are still available for you to speak to should you wish/need to. If you call the school office or email with a brief explanation of support required, we will ensure the correct person gets back to you as soon as possible.

Well-being Team

Mrs Beaumont – Headteacher

Mrs Smith – Designated safeguarding Lead

Mrs Homer – SENCO

Mrs Mayo – Family Support Worker

Mr Rawsthorne – Education Welfare officer (Attendance)

If you have any further questions or queries, please email headteacher@rowleyparkacademy.org.uk or call the school office and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Could you please let us know of required places and support such as resources, access to home learning etc… by the end of the day if possible or at the latest 10am tomorrow morning.

I assure you, that we will continue to do our utmost to keep children and staff as safe as we possibly can. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Beaumont,

Headteacher