



Dear parents and carers

### **Delay to re-opening of River Bank Primary School**

After consulting with governors, staff and some of our wider community, we have today taken the difficult decision to delay the start of school this term. This delay will be constantly reviewed and you will be informed of any changes as regularly as possible.

The school will remain open from Tuesday 5th January for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. It is anticipated that the children attending will be those that attended during the last lockdown period. If you would like a place for your child because they are considered vulnerable or because you have to carry out critical work – please get in touch by calling the school office on 01582 531 860 or by emailing [info@riverbankprimary.org](mailto:info@riverbankprimary.org) (using **School Place** as the subject for the email). Please do this by 15:00 today so that we can create bubbles ready for tomorrow. Guidance on what is considered to be critical work can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>

This decision is based on the information available regarding the increase in COVID cases locally and the rapid transmission of the new variant of COVID.

The health and safety of our school staff, children and families is really important to us and in delaying the re-opening we are taking the decision that we think is best. There was no easy decision to make here.

We would like to offer our apologies for the disruption this will cause to families and any upset to children. However, we believe that it is the right thing to do with the late availability of the evidence and information that we have. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated.

### **Remote Education**

Google Classroom work will be set for your child if they are in Y1-Y6. This will be a mixture of Oak Academy lessons and live lessons with a teacher from your child's year group. It may not always be your child's teacher because we will require some staff in school to teach the pupil's that attend. Pupils now have two Google Classrooms – all work and live lessons will be accessed via the YEAR GROUP Google Classroom and NOT through their class name. Pupils can use the same log in and passwords.

Please contact us if you need support with connectivity or a device.

Reception online learning will take place through Tapestry – staff will contact parents of Reception children to support with this.

River Bank Primary School, Bath Road, Luton LU3 1ES

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## **School Meals**

Pupils who attend school because they are vulnerable or the children of critical workers will need to bring a packed lunch – unless they are in Reception, Y1, Y2 or are in other year groups and entitled to free school meal. Meals can be booked on Scopay as normal.

Pupils who stay at home and are entitled to a benefits related free school meal will be able to access a Huggg.me voucher, just like we made available in the Christmas holidays.

## **Breakfast and After School Clubs**

There will be no provision for breakfast club and after school club during this time.

## **Contact With School**

There will always be people in school. You can contact us any time by email or telephone. We are happy to help with any Google Classroom questions, support with devices and internet connections and any other support you may need. We will also reactivate the year group emails that you used in the last lockdown e.g. Year5@riverbankprimary.org

Best wishes

David Sansom