

North Elmham CEVA Primary School  
Stibbard All Saints CEVA Primary School  
Flourish Federation



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Subject: IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE RETURNING TO SCHOOL JANUARY 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I do appreciate that this is very late in the day and we may still receive further information from the government regarding primary schools. As a head teacher, I am already aware of a significant number of staff who are unable to return to work tomorrow. To this end, I am certain that we have insufficient staff to open our schools safely tomorrow.

Safety is paramount. The Local Authority recognises that head teachers have the delegated responsibility to make the decision to close schools in consultation with the governing body.

Therefore, **WE ARE PLANNING TO BE CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS TOMORROW (MONDAY 4th JANUARY).**

This weekend, I have been in regular contact with the Local Authority and other school leaders to try to implement and agree a plan that ensures the health and safety of the whole school community. You will be aware that the new strain of the virus is rapidly spreading in our area and, within our local community, we are now aware of a significant number of individuals who have received a positive test result in our areas.

All unions associated with school staff are seeking further clarification from the government around the safety of schools being open and how this will impact upon pupils and staff alike. Many unions have called for their members to not attend work in person, but to agree to work

remotely as there is significant doubt as to how safe staff and children can be in school where classrooms are very busy, crowded and where social distancing cannot be effectively implemented. This is a nigh on impossible task in any primary school. We will close the school on Monday to all pupils and ensure we have a cohesive and effective plan in place so all pupils can access learning from home for the foreseeable future.

As far as is possible and to ensure that we have all the measures in place needed to keep your children safe and to enable us to deliver remote learning, we will be closing All Saints Stibbard and North Elmham for the day on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> to all pupils. Please note that there will be **NO** remote learning sent home for Monday as all pupils currently have this with them. The staff team will meet tomorrow to organise rotas for supervising vulnerable pupils and those of critical worker parents. We will be in touch with you if you fall into these categories.

If you are a critical worker and have no choice other than to send your child to school tomorrow, please can you inform me as soon as possible through the school office email.

Norfolk continues to be in Tier 4 and the expectation for the general public, is that people work from home wherever possible.

Can I ask you to please inform us as to whether you intend to keep your children at home anyway, and whether you are critical workers or not. I have already heard from a few of you. This will help with our planning.

As a staff, we are confident that we can offer quality remote learning to those pupils opting to stay at home. The fewer pupils we have in school the safer we can all be; staff and pupils will be able to work as a more effective and socially distanced team to ensure that all of us are protected. I will be in touch to confirm further details as soon as I can after tomorrow's meeting.

Kind regards,

Ms Paula Jones

Executive Head teacher of Flourish Federation