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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Following the Prime Minister's address to the nation tonight, I am writing to set out my short-term plan for tomorrow and beyond.

With deep regret, the significance of the national situation in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined in the PM's emergency announcement, requires that Downlands Community School closes to most pupils for at least the 6 week period of national lockdown until the February half term. Nevertheless, we will once again operate our Post Closure Provision (PCP) starting tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January).

Our PCP will be open to the following pupils:

- Children of key worker families;
- Children in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations

Given the experience of recent months, I have the utmost faith that you will make the right decision tomorrow, and only bring your child to school if **absolutely necessary** (*this includes before- and after-school clubs and parents should use the usually drop-off routes and times*). From Wednesday, I will expect any children needing to attend school either to have been contacted by the school (disadvantaged/vulnerable) or, for keyworker parents where no home supervision is possible, to have applied for a PCP place using an application form which we will send out tomorrow, following consultation with our military liaison officer and subsequent DfE guidance.

From Wednesday onwards, I will be placing my staff on a rota system to minimise the amount of adults in school over the next six weeks. Children who need to attend school will remain in 'phase packs', rather than be grouped all together. However, they will be following the same home learning set for the majority of pupils learning from home. Children accessing PCP will also need to wear school uniform and come prepared with a packed lunch and snack - we will contact relevant parents tomorrow about school meals moving forward, including the provision for those eligible for free school meals.

Detailed guidance about our home learning offer will be sent via email as soon as possible tomorrow. However, in the short-term, your children will need to access their Seesaw (FS - Y4) and Google Classroom virtual learning platforms, from tomorrow morning in order to view the learning set by their teacher. Given the short notice all schools have received, you will understand if there may



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be only maths and English learning activities online tomorrow, but we will have a more comprehensive offer from Wednesday.

We recognise that some pupils may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

- The school has received a very limited amount of additional hardware for children who were eligible in summer 2020. The school will contact those families directly with advice about loaning these additional pieces of school equipment;
- Any KS2 child who is home learning will be able to loan the school iPad which they use in class, if needed;
- Any FS2 to KS1 child without access to IT equipment at home will be offered the loan of a school iPad upon request, but supplies will be very limited and will be prioritised to those at most need;
- Any parent who is struggling to gain access to online learning resources, either through lack of tablet/computer or internet access, should get in touch with the school at the earliest opportunity.

We will be in touch with further information tomorrow morning about how parents can sign loan agreements for school hardware, allocating time slots for collection. We also provide details tomorrow about any necessary collection systems for paper based learning activities and/or required textbooks for home learning.

Finally, I am sorry for the small delay in getting more detailed information on several areas, but to echo the Prime Minister's words tonight, we must all pull together in this time of national emergency and I know that everyone on the Downlands staff team will be fully committed to resolving the situation more comprehensively in the coming days.

In the meantime, as ever, I wish you and your family well in these difficult times.

Your faithfully

Mr J Rielly