

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following tonight's announcement by the Prime Minister your school is now closed for the majority of pupils until February half-term. Your headteacher will be in touch soon to explain procedures for pupils from key worker families and those who are vulnerable who may come into school tomorrow. For those of you who are entitled to Free School Meals the school will put in similar arrangements as in previous lockdowns, but please be aware we have only heard this news at 8pm tonight and plans need to be made.

Schools will need to take tomorrow to plan rotas and the remote learning arrangements so it is very likely there will be no remote learning available tomorrow.

We realise that the recent move into national lockdown arrangements will be making this a very difficult time for families as we all adapt to the new regulations. We really appreciate your support in following the new DfE guidance that we all need to apply even more rigorously than before.

Our very detailed Risk Assessments have been regularly updated to reflect the most recent guidance on keeping children and staff safe in school. They are drawn up in conjunction with professional Health and Safety advisers and in consultation with Unions. We are currently adjusting our published risk assessments to meet this evening's announcement and the latest circumstances and will be publishing these on our website in the very near future. Your headteacher will advise you when this is complete.

I fully appreciate how frustrating and concerning this will be for many of you, but Ad Astra Academy Trust continues to uphold its values, of which two, Support and Togetherness could not be more relevant in 2021. There are green shoots appearing in terms of the vaccine and we should all try to remain positive and optimistic. Take care.

Yours faithfully

Andy Brown OBE

Chief Executive Officer

Ad Astra Academy Trust