



Hollybrook Infant & Junior Schools

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Headteacher: Ms Marcella Dobson

Deputy Heads: Mrs Clare Clifford & Mrs Lisa Alderslade

Sunday 3rd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Reopening of Hollybrook Schools for Spring term in tier 4

I am writing to you today to map out how we will be managing the rapidly evolving developments for schools re-opening in Tier 4 areas, which is the current level for Southampton. In fact, the various school unions have collectively called for all schools to remain closed due to several references from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) about the threat to an increase in the 'R' rate (which is the rate of infection) if schools return this month. There are legal challenges to the government about this issue from the headteachers' union, the NAHT.

I am deeply saddened that this is incredibly last minute for you all and I am frustrated that it didn't need to be this way had there been more strategic guidance from the Department for Education. I am so sorry that things seem so chaotic and I am so sorry that you, as parents and carers are not being given the reassurances you feel you need. Please be assured that staff at the Hollybrook schools fundamentally believe that school is the best place for children to learn and be alongside their friends. However, it is vital that they attend school in a safe context for pupils, staff and all our families in our local community.

Both of the Hollybrook Schools fully intend to re-open tomorrow to all pupils as following government guidance. We have assessed the risks, updated our risk assessment which is available on the website and we believe that we can continue to operate as safely as we did before Christmas. Should the situation change we will endeavour to inform you as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your patience and support during this incredibly challenging time. We look forward to seeing you all at school tomorrow.

Kind regards

Marcella Dobson
Headteacher