



## Great Bardfield Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Alison Kerrell

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parents,

We hope that you and your family have enjoyed a good and peaceful Christmas given the circumstances that we find ourselves in, with the current Covid-19 restrictions.

You may have seen the news from the government today and given the crisis point that Essex is in, with the rate of infection, you will know that they have issued further measures to try to control the spread of the virus.

**Therefore, in line with direction from the Government, Great Bardfield Primary School will be closed, for at least two weeks, from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. This means that pupils will not return after the Christmas Break and will need to access their learning on-line.**

We will open only for a **small number** of pupils who are either deemed to be a vulnerable child (we will contact parents directly to discuss provision) or the child of **TWO** critical worker parents. If you believe that you meet the critical worker criteria, please complete the attached screening form and return to the office by 3pm tomorrow.

For more information, please see the latest Critical Worker Guidance:

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

We recognise the impact that our school being closed will have on pupils' emotional health and wellbeing and that this may put a strain on families. We were grateful for the support that parents gave their children during the last school closure and hope that you will be able to do this again, as far as you possibly can. We know that there will be challenges in this, particularly if you are working from home and we will offer as much support as we can.

Governors and the leadership team have met this evening to discuss how best to keep all members of our school community as Covid safe as possible. Additionally, this evening, teachers have met and will spend the next few days preparing to set work remotely. We will give you more information about this on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. We will be using Seesaw and Tapestry, as we did before in the previous school closure. Please check over the next few days if you/ your child can log on to the platform (you/ they should be able to as we use it for homework) and email the office if you are having problems. We will address any issues as soon as possible.



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**We need to work together to protect all members of our school community and we therefore ask that you only request to send your child to school if there is no other childcare available.** If only one parent is a critical worker and the other parent is working from home it will **not** be possible for you to send your child to school, as they can be cared for at home. We ask parents to remember that at this time, when the virus has been deemed to be more virulent than ever, that the safest place for their child is at home. We sincerely hope that these extreme measures, to control the spread of Covid-19, will only be for a few weeks.

We understand that you may have questions at this time. Please email these to the office or you can call the office tomorrow during special opening hours of 1.00-4.00pm.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs A Kerrell*  
Mrs Kerrell  
Headteacher  
Great Bardfield Primary School

*Mrs J Tillotson*  
Mrs Jane Tillotson  
Chair of Governors  
Great Bardfield Primary School



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