




National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

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Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is certainly, not how we were expecting the New Year to begin and I would like to start this letter by thanking you for your support and patience during this difficult time. As you are aware, I wrote to you all last Monday 4th January, to say that due to staff shortages, we were unable to open fully for the next two weeks. That evening, Boris Johnson announced a national lockdown and stated that schools should only open to priority children but early years settings should stay fully open.

Ludwick is a school, and therefore very different to much of the early years sector which is private. Initially, there was not clarity around which advice we should follow, but we have now been told that nursery schools fall under the early years advice and that we should remain fully open.

Therefore, we now need to plan how to fully re-open from the 18th January.

We are still facing significant staffing challenges and these are not going to be resolved quickly. Since the announcement of the lockdown, our staff challenges have increased due to staff now having to be at home to care for vulnerable family members or staff working reduced hours due to losing wraparound care for their own children and staff illness.

In order to re-open fully, we have to consider carefully how to do this as safely as possible and my priority to keep the children, staff and families safe remains the same. We are a large school, bigger than some primary schools with 180 children on roll. We also have higher groups of children in our rooms compared to other settings and higher numbers of staff.

Therefore, over the next week I will be working closely with my senior leadership team and governors to make plans to re-open the school from the 18th January. It is highly likely that due to staffing challenges we will not be able to offer your child their usual hours. However, it is my ambition to offer all children access to some provision even if this is slightly reduced. We will be sending out a parent survey on Friday afternoon to find out about your needs and requirements and will do our best to accommodate your requests.

For those of you supporting your children at home at the moment, I hope you are able to access the home learning that has been sent to you. From Monday, the staff are looking forward to seeing you on a zoom call. Today, you will be sent a copy of our remote learning offer and an explanation of what will be available for you to access next week.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the staff team for their hard work and dedication, during these unprecedented times.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards,

H Ackerman

Mrs Helen Ackerman
Head teacher

