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8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

**Update on partial-opening.**

This was not the start to a school year that any of us were hoping for.

We are really sorry that we have had to restrict the number of students on site. This decision was not made lightly and was taken not only to protect students and staff but also in response to the number of staff who have currently tested positive, are awaiting test results or are isolating due to contact with a positive case. In addition, due to the new variant of the virus, many staff are extremely anxious about traveling into school, as many have long journeys on public transport.

We will be offering the lateral flow test to staff from next week which we hope will help staff to feel more confident about being in school. At the moment we have no plans to test students unless they are able to self-administer the test. We will only suggest this once we are happy with the effectiveness of our procedures.

We have changed many of our procedures to restrict both staff and student's movements around school so that 'class bubbles' can be safe. As the health and safety of both staff and students has to be our number one priority.

Form tutors should have already contacted you about home learning and I know that resources have been delivered to some homes. We will be reviewing the current situation on the 15<sup>th</sup> January and at that point may possibly be able to offer additional places.

Please also be assured that if you have chosen to keep your child at home, I have been permitted to authorise this and I fully appreciate your concerns.

Thank you all for your continued understanding and support

Yours sincerely

*Lynda Walker*  
Headteacher