

Worcestershire County Council

Headteacher:
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Monday 4th January 2021

Good evening,

You will no doubt have heard the announcement at 8pm tonight that Astley School must close, with immediate effect, for the majority of its pupils until February half term. This is sad news in so many ways and I know that we would all much rather not be in this position.

We have taken the decision tonight that school **will not be open to any pupils tomorrow** in order to give staff the time to set up remote learning, distribute laptops to those who requested one and to begin the process of identifying children who will attend school during the lockdown.

If your child/ren have been identified as vulnerable in line with the national guidance, we will be in touch with you as soon as possible tomorrow.

Further to my letter this afternoon, if you believe that you are a critical worker and are seeking a full time place in school, please email office@astley.worcs.sch.uk to advise us of this **by noon tomorrow**. We will then spend the afternoon looking at the numbers and working out what is both possible and safe to do. We will contact you later in the day when an outcome is known.

Children attending school will be able to be booked into Stay and Play in the usual way. Please await the links to the bookings in due course.

I do understand that this is an incredibly stressful time and you will have many pressures and worries. However, I would ask you to give us tomorrow to work this out. Please do not ring school tomorrow but give us the time to work through the tasks in as efficient a way as we possibly can. We will communicate with you later in the day, to give you further details and updates.

Children attending school will return to school on Wednesday 6th January at their usual times. All other children will begin remote learning with tasks shared on Teams from 9am on the same day.

It will be different, but I am convinced that we can make this work and will have all of the staff team fully engaged in ensuring learning and daily contact takes place. We have all learnt a great deal since the last lockdown and your responses to the questionnaire have been considered and acted upon. The staff and children have been learning to use Teams and it is a fantastic resource for us now.

Best wishes,

Alison Reakes-Williams
Headteacher