

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Government Announcement

Following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday of a return to a full National Lockdown, I am writing to update you on the situation for New Forest School.

The latest updated government guidance is available here ([click link](#)).

This lockdown impacts on education in two ways:

1. Closure of school sites except for vulnerable students & children of critical workers.
2. Year 11 exams will not go ahead as planned.

I have no doubt, this will raise a number of questions with parents/carers.

Late last night, the Department for Education issued a letter to schools outlining what the National Lockdown means for schools.

In terms of students attending school, the letter states that:

*'if the parent of a vulnerable child wishes their child to be absent from school, the parent should let the school know that the pupil will not be attending'*

Therefore, it is clear that parents/carers have a choice regarding children attending face to face teaching.

Our intention is to run this half term in two blocks:

**Block 1:** until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of January

**Block 2:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of January – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February

In order for us to plan effectively I have created an online survey for parents/carers to inform us of their decision, this can be accessed at:

<https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90304854/New-Forest-School-2021-COVID-19-Survey>

# New Forest Care Education

This survey covers block 1 – until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Before the end of this period of time we will resend the survey to cover block 2.

I would be incredibly grateful if you could complete this survey as soon as practical so we are able to plan provision for students attending.

My intention is to share plans with parents/carers by the end of today.

This will be done via email, the school website and personal phone calls to all parents/carers as we have done during previous lock downs.

Can I thank you in advance for your support and patience as we deal with this new National Lockdown.

Kindest regards,



Duncan Smith  
Headteacher