**Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School and Nursery**

Headteacher: Katy Tomlinson Chair of Governors: Terry Yarnall

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**www.siralexanderflemingprimaryschool.org.uk**

Sunday 3rd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is not the first letter I wanted to write to you in January 2021, however it is necessary to inform you of the situation as it stands now.

I have been at a meeting today with Headteachers from our local area and we are all working closely together to bring you information and to support you in keeping all our families safe at this uncertain time.

It is clear that the new variant of Covid-19 is virulent, and the rates of infection are rising far more rapidly than the previous strain. As a school we are thinking very carefully about the safety of all adults and children in classes with high numbers and as parents you may wish to make an informed decision and consider the safety of your families. During this time, whatever decision you make, your children’s places will be held safe here.

As the Headteacher, it falls to me to ensure that we do as much as we possibly can during this global pandemic to ensure that everyone is kept as safe as possible. I have a duty of care to ensure the children, the staff, the parents, the extended families are all protected; more than that, I care about you all. The new data in today (3.1.2021) shows that there have been another 454 new deaths in the last 24 hours and now 75,000 deaths.

The national picture is very uncertain with many areas in Tier 3 and Tier 4. Teaching Unions and unions that support all staff in school, are still under negotiations with the Government on a safer school reopening. A judicial decision is due to be made by 4pm on Monday 4th January.

The unions have advised their members to consider if they feel safe working in a school environment with such high numbers in a classroom and social distancing being extremely difficult to manage. All staff working within school, have every right to express their concerns regarding their Health and Safety in school and it is my position to support them with this. I am currently interpreting the union advice and the impact this will have on staffing levels.

In conjunction with my Chair of Governors we have taken stock of the National situation and as it is uncertain, we have decided to keep school **closed** on **Tuesday 5th January** so that we have time to create a plan that has not been rushed and to hope that it does not need to change.

School will be open on Tuesday 5th January to children who are vulnerable or who are Key Workers. We will be contacting families on Monday to let you know that your child can return to school. If you are a key worker, then I am asking you to email school on: A2134@telford.gov.uk by 12pm tomorrow (Monday) to book Key Worker provision.

New starters for the Nursery will need to be postponed.

There will be work / home learning uploaded to the website for children who are not attending school.

The Local authority support school’s decisions and they are updating us with Department of Education information daily.

I will be in contact with you by the end of the school day on Tuesday to inform and update you with full opening times.

Kind regards,

Katy Tomlinson Terry Yarnall

Headteacher Chair of Governors