



Shamblehurst Primary School, Wildern Lane, Hedge End,
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Headteacher: Anna Jones

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Sunday 3rd January 2021

Dear Parents,

We all hope that you have enjoyed some rest and happy times and that you and your family remain safe and well.

It has truly been a very long day with back to back phone calls, zoom meetings and correspondence between the Shamblehurst teaching team and Governing Body.

I am sure you are aware that there has been an evolving and very fast moving situation, impacting primary schools nationally. Following advice from teaching unions this morning, many teachers have been advised that there is not enough clear evidence around the safety of opening schools at the moment.

We are writing to you today to state that at the moment Shamblehurst Primary School is open tomorrow in line with Local Authority and Government advice. However, due to high levels of staff absence, including linked to track and trace as well as staff acting on advice from their unions, we are at capacity in terms of staffing levels. There is a chance that your child will not be taught by their class teacher, but they will be taught by someone very familiar to them and linked to their bubble.

I am very sorry that this is being presented to you on a Sunday evening before your children are due to return, but this situation has been changing by the hour and we have just met with all staff to finalise our plan.

We will of course keep in regular contact with you.

I need to remind parents that it is very important that they adhere to all preventative guidelines we have in place.

These are:

Parents to adhere to social distancing.

Parent to wear a face mask on the school site, unless there are medical reasons for them not to do so.

Only one parent to pick up or drop off – where this is a sibling, only one sibling and not a friend as well.

Parents should not mix with any other parents, including outside the school gates. We are all living under tier 4 restrictions and the same rules apply at drop off and pick up times.



Parents can no longer speak to class teachers or members of staff at drop off or pick up. We do want to keep open lines of communication with parents so please phone the office if you need to speak to your child's class teacher or have any other concerns. We will get back to you as quickly as possible – this is to keep you and staff safe.

Children will be cold in school. This is because we adhere to the government advice on keeping rooms well ventilated. We encourage children to wear extra layers and wrap up. The heating is on fully in school but it is still chilly.

A revised risk assessment will be on our website by the end of the day tomorrow detailing any further measures we are putting in place.

We understand that this is a worrying and unsettling time for our whole community.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Jones

