



# Falcon Junior School

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Headteacher: Mr E J Savage

4<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to provide you with information regarding the opening of Falcon Junior School now that we find ourselves in Tier 4 in Norfolk.

We have done everything we can to make Falcon as safe as possible, following Norfolk County Council's Compliance Code and Department for Education guidance. However, the new strain of Covid-19 and the steep rise in infection rates locally and nationally are worrying for everyone. All the staff at Falcon are fully committed to providing the best education for your children but are also concerned about the children's, their own and their family's health and safety.

The biggest teaching and support staff union, the NEU, have written to their members advising them that they should not return to work from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January as the workplace is unsafe. They have advised staff to continue to work remotely. Guidance for schools changes rapidly and at short notice. Most of the current information has developed over the weekend.

Following the advice from the NEU to its members, we do not have staff to operate safely.

As a result, from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, Falcon Junior School will be open for critical worker children and vulnerable children only. All other pupils will switch to remote learning. I have taken this decision following discussions with other local headteachers and our Local Authority and discussions with our staff and Chair of Governors. Teachers will be in touch between now and Wednesday to confirm arrangements with you.

We will shortly be sending out a Google Form survey for you to complete should you require Critical Worker provision. The list of Critical Workers can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Please remember we are in Tier 4 now and if you can keep your child at home and access the remote learning which will begin Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, this is the best way we can reduce the infection risk and protect our NHS.

As this is a very fast moving situation, we will keep this under review. Therefore, we will make a decision regarding next week on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

I apologise for the short notice and inconvenience. We will continue to monitor the situation very closely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E J Savage', written in a cursive style.

E J Savage  
Headteacher