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3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



I would like to begin by wishing you and your families a very Happy New Year and hope that you were able to make the best of the holiday time.

My sincere apologies for emailing so late in the day before the start of the new term. The past days have seen the situation regarding the opening of schools constantly changing and I have kept abreast of the local and national developments via news and LA updates.

All Doncaster headteachers were invited to a meeting with the Local Authority and Public Health to discuss the opening of schools this morning. The meeting was attended by over 120 professionals including representatives from the Local Authority and Public Health, and the opinions shared and decisions made were considered ones. The consensus at the meeting was that Doncaster schools should take Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 as a COVID planning day and that if they did so, those schools would be closed to all pupils. This was supported by the Local Authority and I have attached their press release received a short time ago.

As a Local Authority school, we will be taking this course of action and therefore our school will be closed to pupils on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and will re-open to pupils on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

I realise that the short notice you have been given may present many of you with difficulties around childcare. I would like to assure you that it is rare for schools and the Local Authority to take such actions and we do so with the intention of doing the very best that we can in order to keep our children, staff and the community as safe as they possibly can be in the term ahead.

Once again, I would like to apologise for the lateness of this communication but please be aware that during the meeting this morning, it was evident that all schools want to be fully open for all children and the decision to use tomorrow as an extra planning day, was not taken lightly by the LA and schools.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Keep safe,

Mrs Jenkinson (Executive Headteacher)

