



5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are sharing the following information with you all from the Director of Public Health – Dudley.

Unfortunately since Christmas, **COVID-19 rates in Dudley have been climbing rapidly with no evidence of slowing**. The 7 day rate is currently at 600 per 100,000, which is the highest we have seen through the pandemic and is almost double the rate before Christmas. **Coronavirus case rates are increasing across all age ranges including children**. In contrast to earlier waves where the case rate increased at different times in different areas of the borough, the **rates are now increasing rapidly across all towns of Dudley** borough. Such high rates are causing **huge pressure on local NHS hospitals** and it is critical that they are brought back under control with extreme urgency.

Due to both the unprecedented number of requests for school places and in the absence of additional explicit guidance from DFE about prioritising critical workers and pupil ratios **we are not in a position to be open to any pupils tomorrow.**

Further clarification will be requested via email

Regards,

Mrs A Hannaway & Mr D Edgar
Headteacher Chair of Governors