



**Sheerhatch Primary School**  
Willington Road  
Cople  
BEDFORD  
Bedfordshire  
MK44 3TH

4 January 2021

Sample Parent

Sample Student (Year 1, Samples)

Email:  
office@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk

Phone: 01234838827

Website:  
<http://www.sheerhatchprimary.org.uk>

## **URGENT MESSAGE**

Dear Parents,

I am writing to let you know that we have made the incredibly difficult decision to delay the opening of school. I am very sorry that this comes at the last minute, but we are having to take into account ever changing circumstances.

As you know, local COVID figures have been very high and this has led to pressure on the government from local leaders to extend the delayed opening, recommended in other areas, to include Bedford. The government has not responded to this, but growing numbers of Bedford schools have made the decision to delay with the support of the local authority.

Due to our small numbers and split site, we had confidence that our robust risk assessment measures meant that we could offer full provision as safely as possible.

However, we are now aware that our staffing numbers may be compromised, which changes our ability to offer such safe provision. We have staff who have had COVID recently and others who are currently not 100% well.

What the delayed opening means:

- School will be open from tomorrow for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers (a separate ParentMail will be sent to organise this)
- Remote learning will be available from Wednesday. Further details will be provided tomorrow.
- Arrangements will be made to provide for those entitled to Free School Meals (NB this doesn't include the Universal Free School Meals for Reception, Year 1 and 2)
- We will review how we could safely provide in-school learning for further groups.
- Full opening will be planned for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January unless the local or national picture changes.

Please believe me that this is a last resort and that all staff will be working hard to make sure that we can offer the best provision possible in very challenging circumstances.

My best wishes as always

Miss Helen Ryan