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18th January 2021

## RE: We need your help Restricting Attendance during the National Lockdown

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have held off writing to you regarding this matter until now as we were trying very hard to facilitate places for pupils who need them. However, we are keen to keep numbers in school as low as possible so that we can provide the safest possible environment for the children of parents who must go to work under the new Government Guidelines.

As you are aware, all primary and secondary schools closed, after England moved into a third national lockdown, and schools are providing remote learning. Only vulnerable children and children of key workers are currently allowed to attend schools for face-to-face learning **but parents should still keep their children at home if they can.**

The government acknowledges that schools do play a role in the transmission of the virus and therefore, there comes a point when occupancy levels might be so high that they work against the efforts to bring down infection rates in communities, as is the national aim. This could result in prolonging the amount of time the majority of pupils are away from the classroom, which we are all conscious to avoid.

Our occupancy rates have increased significantly since the last lockdown and so in order to keep our children, families and staff safe, we ask that you keep your child at home if at all possible. With increased numbers come an increased risk of having to isolate more children in the school.

We are asking that you consider keeping your child at home if there is an adult at home that can take care of them. This does not need to be a parent, it could be another adult in the household such as an adult sibling. If you can keep your child at home, please contact the school so home learning arrangements can be made as soon as possible.

We thank you in advance for supporting and helping us ensure our school community is as safe as possible and we reduce the number of pupils and staff attending at this time.

Yours sincerely,

**Galiema Amien – Cloete**  
Executive Head Teacher

**Lisa Christiansen**  
Head of School