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Monday 4th January 2020

BUCKTON VALE OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN FROM TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The main content of this letter has been created by Tameside and the decision to request primary schools remain open lies with them. Please understand that this is an ever changing situation and there is likely to be disruption at short notice over the coming weeks. To make matters worse there is also the threat of snow over the next two weeks. Do keep an eye on the weather forecast.

To best prepare us at Buckton Vale, this evening information will be sent to you requesting your key worker status and whether you require a key worker place should school be forced to close. Buckton Vale has a high % of key worker families and we will endeavour to support your needs but if numbers are too high I will need to review how places are allocated. In the first lockdown over a third of the school requested key worker places.

'We understand that some staff, parents and families may be concerned about the recent government announcements regarding the reopening of schools and the implications for us here in Tameside. At this point in time, primary schools and our special and alternative provision schools are set to reopen from tomorrow, 5 January 2021, as planned.

In a letter from the Secretary of State for Education, sent to the Leader and our Chief Executive on Friday, the reasoning behind the closure of primary schools in London and the South East and the implementation of the government's contingency framework was based on very high rates of infection in the community alongside the NHS capacity to cope. This framework seeks to balance the need to keep children in face-to-face education wherever possible with suppressing community transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Our infection rates are rising quickly but are currently lower than many other parts of the country - based on the last set of data available between Christmas and New Year, Tameside ranks 129th in the country and 9th in Greater Manchester.'

For now, Buckton Vale plans to open for all children from Tuesday 5th January and I will endeavour to keep you updated on any changes as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your support.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "DBrown".

Mrs Brown
Headteacher