



14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear parent / carer,

I hope you are keeping well. As we draw the busy term to a close, it is with regret that I must now inform you that we have been instructed to return to distance / blended learning for the final two school days of this term (Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December). Flintshire's rates of Covid-19 infection have been rising consistently over the last few weeks and, as is the case in other Flintshire schools, we are having difficulty in maintaining adequate staffing levels. This concern, along with the emergence of the new variant, has caused Flintshire Council to advise all schools to reintroduce a distance / blended learning approach.

Children of key workers and vulnerable children only will be permitted to attend Castell Alun on both the Monday and Tuesday if no alternative arrangements can be made. Please contact school (01978 760238 or email us at [main@castellalun.flintshire.sch.uk](mailto:main@castellalun.flintshire.sch.uk)) before 3pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December should you require this provision for your child.

Families receiving free school meals will have necessary payments made directly into specified bank accounts should the child not be in school. We are told also that buses will still run as necessary.

Further information is available on the Flintshire website, including statements from Mrs Claire Homard, Chief Officer for Education and Youth and Council Leader, Councillor Ian Roberts. Flintshire Council expects the workforce situation to deteriorate as the week progresses so has made this decision now to give parents and carers as much time as possible to make arrangements.

Although this isn't the close to term that we had all hoped for, we will of course contact you should further clarification of this ongoing situation be necessary, and we wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Colin Ellis'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light purple rectangular background.

Colin Ellis (Headteacher)