



02/11/2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Important information

I know that many of you are already aware of the escalating chatter online stemming from an alleged incident in school prior to the half term break. For context, this originates from a false accusation made about a member of our staff which was investigated thoroughly and, in conversation with the pupils directly involved, found to be entirely untrue. Following this, a number of pupils have posted comments on social media repeating the false and misleading accusation. Had the accusation been true, this would have been an extremely serious matter and we would understand pupils' frustration; however this simply isn't the case.

Due to the incorrect information being shared on social media, it has now been picked up by a wider audience. The issue has come to the attention of an external protest group who have planned a demonstration outside our school tomorrow, Friday 3rd November.

We are working hard to ensure we keep a safe environment both within the school and the wider community. We have spoken to all pupils directly involved and we are working with key members of the community to ensure all misinformation is rectified.

With a protest planned, we have sought advice from Greater Manchester Police, the Local Authority and the Local Independent Advisory Group to decide upon the safest option for the protection of our pupils and staff. While there is no indication that this won't be a peaceful protest, we are concerned that the relatively small space outside our gates might become overcrowded; this could be intimidating for pupils or cause dangerous overspill into the road putting both protestors and pupils at risk. As a precaution **we have taken the difficult decision to move to remote learning at home for the day on Friday 3 November; school will be closed.**

We appreciate this is very short notice, however we hope you understand that the safety of our pupils and staff has to come first. We will be providing home learning via Google Classroom to reduce the disruption to education and will re-open as normal on Monday 6 November. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and are very grateful for your support; I'm sure you can understand how very frustrated we are that external factors and misinformation are affecting the smooth running of our school. We will of course keep you updated should anything change.

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Houghton

Headteacher