**MESSAGE TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS AND STAFF AFTER BORIS’ ANNOUNCEMENT AT 8PM ON 4 JANUARY 2021**

I appreciate that you will all have questions and I have received a plethora of messages already despite the fact that I was (in all honesty) so tired when I left work today that I left my phone behind (staff please note.) In all honesty I have a huge amount of questions too, and - as so often - the Govt guidance to support Boris's recent announcement has yet to arrive . . .Having had urgent meetings and discussions immediately following the announcement what I would say is the following:

- Boris has made it clear that, where possible, children are safer at home than in school. Much as I want to reassure you we can negate the risks associated with Covid we cannot - having said that we work exceptionally hard to minimise these risks, and are committed to doing so.

- Boris has also made it clear that those who are clinically vulnerable, and have previously needed to shield, should once again shield for their safety.

- There has been a lot of debate surrounding the term ‘vulnerable’ and a shift from the Government in the ways in which they have begun to use this term to refer more to those who are vulnerable for specific reasons other than a SEND diagnosis – this is something I have questioned on a number of occasions and which I will be seeking further clarity around again tomorrow.

- Should you feel that your child is safer in school than at home tomorrow (for whatever reason) then they should come in.

- Should you feel that your child is safer at home from tomorrow then please keep them at home and notify us via email foxwoodschool\_finance@warrington.gov.uk or ring the school office tomorrow morning. At this point I would ask you to say when you anticipate your child returning to school (the National Lockdown appears to have been announced until February half term.

)- Should you need to send your child in tomorrow whilst you make arrangements, but then wish them to stay at home from Wednesday onwards, then please send them in and notify us of this via email or phoning the office.

- If your child is not attending school tomorrow please contact transport first thing to inform them; I appreciate they are likely to be inundated with calls, but at this late stage we are all limited to what we can do

.- I have asked all available staff to come into school and college tomorrow, however I am mindful that many are parents too, and that this depends on their own child(ren)’s schools (all staff should identify themselves as Key Workers.) Should we have insufficient staff to safely meet the needs of the number of pupils in school then I will have no choice but to close classes

.- Tomorrow I will meet with SLT to devise a plan based on the guidance (hopefully) provided, the Local Authority view, Social Care input and a variety of practical details. We will then share details around this.

- Home Learning will not be available for pupils tomorrow, to enable us to focus on necessary preparation for moving forwards.

- Home Learning for all pupils at home will commence on Wednesday and welfare calls from a member of the Class team will take place on this day too.

I want to assure you that this is not the situation that we wanted at all, and this is why we worked so hard on Sunday to ensure that school could open today. However, the safety of all must come first and I have significant concerns following Boris’ announcement.

**Lucinda**