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Dear Parents

It is with great sadness that we have learned that Lincolnshire will move into Tier 4 from midnight tonight, meaning that the club will not be able to re-open on Monday 4th January 2021 as planned. Under Tier 4 gymnastics clubs must close. We know there will be a lot of disappointed gymnasts as indeed there a lot of extremely disappointed coaches (and committee members and volunteers), who have worked so hard following both lockdowns to make everything as safe as they can for the gymnasts and to rebuild the gymnasts' confidence and to progress them whilst making it as enjoyable as they can under the strict regulations. We hope that following the good news about the rollout of the vaccines and following the review in a further 3 weeks' time that Lincolnshire will be moved down tiers to allow us to re-open so we can all get back to what we love – gymnastics!

The club will furlough our two employed coaches and will hopefully be able to apply for a grant to help towards the cost of the rent and other running costs of the club but will again have to use the club's limited reserves to meet the inevitable shortfall.

We would therefore be grateful again if parents would please pay a £5 retainer for January to reserve gymnasts' places, which the club will in turn use to again pay a retainer to our volunteer coaches to help them through this further closure. As mentioned previously, most of them are students or self-employed and have no other income other than coaching expenses. This will ensure that we can look after them again to ensure when we are able to re-open, we can have our fantastic coaching team all back.

We are aware that unfortunately it may be too late for some of you to reduce your standing orders for 1st January due to the late notice of this closure and the notice required by banks to make amendments, in which case please reduce it for 1st February subs in lieu of this. Unfortunately, as the payments are by standing order you are in control of these, rather than the club, and we cannot amend this for you or refund standing orders. We are also aware that some parents have continued to pay full subs throughout the closures to support the club and we are extremely grateful for this support in these difficult times but are also aware that many cannot do this and completely understand and are grateful for your support in paying a retainer to support our coaching team.

We will of course keep you updated as and when we have more information following today's announcement and when we have any news about when we can re-open, but in the meantime thank you once again for your continued support of the club.

We wish you all a safe and Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all as soon as possible in 2021.

Lincoln City Gymnastics Club