

St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton



Newsletter 11: 7.01.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wrote to you on Monday 4 January and the situation has changed already! Boris Johnson announced a nationwide lockdown, including school closures, on Monday 4 January at 8.00 pm. School closures are until February half term at least. This is for 6 school weeks, including this week. We are now in this national lockdown with a clear message of :

STAY AT HOME, PROTECT THE NHS, SAVE LIVES
Please can you support us with the *STAY AT HOME* message

We are in a very serious place with the pandemic and return to the government message of March 2020.

We **must** limit the number of adults and children in school to keep everyone as safe as is possible, prevent hospitals being overwhelmed and mitigate the risk of our school being completely closed due to illness and the need to self-isolate. News coverage last night was very concerning. We have a high number of cases in Oxford.

The government messaging on critical worker eligibility is not helpful. We have been inundated with requests and we fully understand how difficult it is to have schools closed and children learning from home. Nobody wants this. However, the instruction is that MOST learning is now done remotely and this is where teachers energies must be directed.

We are allocating school places according to fair criteria based around full and part time workers and the nature of work as we know some jobs cannot be done from home. We will always make a priority of NHS front line workers.

There are some year groups where the demand is greater than the number of places that we have available. **We will allocate places week by week so you will need to reapply weekly by Tuesday of each week for the coming week.** The coordination of places is led by Ruth Tarry in our office who will let you know by every Thursday about the following week.

School will run for 4.5 days during lockdown and finish on Friday lunchtime, at 12.30. after school lunch. This is to give all teachers Planning Preparation and Assessment time of Friday afternoon.

I am truly sorry to be writing this rather grim newsletter so early in the new term.

Let's finish with a positive. We are delighted with the response to our remote learning platform Seesaw with many children highly engaged already – excellent!

I am so looking forward, however, to us being back to a full school, running properly, with this pandemic under control and lots of people vaccinated. Please keep safe, try and take a day at a time. I am thinking of you so much.

Best wishes,
Liz Burton