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St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
We are children of God: we achieve, believe and care.

Monday 4th January, 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a very difficult day and we are now faced with a situation we had hoped to avoid: St Joseph's will not re-open tomorrow for all children as planned. We tried our best but the emergency national lockdown takes the decision out of our control. Our whole school community is saddened by this news as we had missed the children so much and were so looking forward to their return. As there has been very little notice given, there are logistical arrangements which will need to be put in place, and I'm sure there may be teething problems to iron out over the first few days.

From Tuesday 5th January, all children, as far as possible, should remain at home where home learning will be uploaded onto Tapestry or Seesaw. This is for their own safety and to support the safety of their family.

We fully understand that this emergency lockdown and enforced school closure has happened quickly and children of COVID essential workers may need Key Worker provision in school.

On Tuesday 5th January, school will accept children of COVID essential workers who are unable to stay at home, as directed by the Government. However, in order for us to make provision for these pupils and sustain Key Worker provision in the long term, please complete the Key Worker Application form available from our website at <http://washingtonstjosephs.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/KeyWorkerAppForm.docx> and return to school by email at <mailto:parent.responses@wsj.org.uk> **by 11am.**

Updated guidance about the criteria for COVID essential workers can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Remember the government has stated: 'please stay at home if at all possible'.

Remote learning will be provided from tomorrow for pupils who are learning at home, but please bear with us as we work out how to manage the numbers in school and balance this with the needs of the children learning at home. I anticipate that it will take a few days to reach the optimal procedures to ensure all pupils receive the best education possible during these challenging times.

Children who are entitled to means tested free school meals but who are staying at home will have provisions made. We are waiting to hear how this will be provided and will let you know.

Thank you as always for your unending patience and support. We continue to keep all our families in our prayers at this difficult time.

God Bless,

Mrs Black



Bishop Wilkinson
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