



ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Principal: Lisa Belfield
Executive Principal: Jill Pilling

St James C.E Primary School
Hillside Avenue, Farnworth, Bolton, BL4 9QB

Tel: 01204 572587

Email: office@st-james-farnworth.bolton.sch.uk

www.st-james-farnworth.bolton.sch.uk

Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure that like me you have just heard the Prime Minister announce the latest lockdown for England. It is therefore with a heavy heart that I am informing you that school will be closed to all pupils, except children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils, with immediate effect.

In order to make all the necessary arrangements to move to remote learning and arrange key worker provision, school will be CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS tomorrow. This will allow time for staff to fully prepare and ensure appropriate steps are taken to ensure all vulnerable and children of critical workers are identified and catered for and teaching staff are appropriately allocated.

We will be sending information out tomorrow to parents/carers so that you can let us know if you are a key worker and will need a place starting from Wednesday. School will contact those families whose children are classed as vulnerable (tomorrow) to find out if you require a school place during lockdown. It has been made clear by the Prime Minister that it is safer for us to stay at home where we can; therefore if you are eligible for a school place and do not want your child to attend as you are concerned about the national picture, then that is understandable, you do not need to accept the place. As in the previous lockdown, key worker children will be expected to attend when they can not be safely cared for at home – key worker care is a last resort provision only which is to minimise contacts and transmission of the virus. Places will be allocated once we know anticipated numbers. We are now awaiting further guidance from the government as to what is expected from schools during this new lockdown.

I appreciate this will cause frustration and upset for some of you, and I sincerely apologise, but please understand that we only found out the information about school closures for all primary pupils this evening (at the same time as you) and it will take time to reorganise school. We will reopen on Wednesday 6th January for children of key workers and those that are vulnerable. Remote learning will also begin from this date.

We will also be in touch tomorrow regarding Free School Meals.

Please accept again my apologies for this late communication but I know you will understand the situation we have just been placed in this evening. Thank you for your continued support and we will be in touch again tomorrow with more information. If you have any questions, please give us time tomorrow to contact you first. Please only contact the office if you feel your concerns or queries have not been addressed in our communications to you tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Belfield
Principal