

St John with St Michael CE Primary School



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Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you all for your ongoing support during this week following the announcements on Monday evening. This letter is to outline our plans moving forward into the coming weeks.

From next Monday, we would like to have a clearer view of how many children will be in school each day. This will provide staff and children with consistency and will help with forward planning.

Children of critical (key) workers

If your job role falls under the updated critical worker list (included as a separate file on the files to download section of the school website), I would ask that you complete the Google Form to indicate which days you need your child to be in school from next Monday. The link to the Google Form has been sent as a text message and it is also on the home page of the school website. It is imperative that this form is completed to request a place for your child. **Please complete this form by Thursday at 3:30pm at the latest so we can make plans for next week.**

To help with forward planning, we will take the responses from this form and allocate your child a place on the same days every week until the February half term break. This saves us sending the form out every week. If there are slight alterations on certain weeks, please let me know by emailing me or phoning school.

If you are a critical worker and you complete this form, we will also need to see evidence of your critical worker status. This will need either emailing to head@sjsm.lancs.sch.uk or bringing into school before the first day that your child will be in school next week.

The local authority has stressed that the purpose of the lockdown is to limit contact between households and reduce transmission of this extremely contagious strain of coronavirus. Therefore we have been asked to reiterate again that if you are working at home, pupils should remain at home and access online provision. Please consider this advice carefully as if the number of requests for places gets too high, there may be a time that if we reach full capacity, in order to ensure the safety of pupils, staff and the wider community, we will have no choice but to prioritise available places in school following the clear government criteria. We apologise in advance for the potential disruption this may cause, but we are required by law to follow precise protocol to protect the community and the NHS.

Vulnerable children

School will continue to support vulnerable children within our school community. If you wish to request a place in school for your child for this reason, please email me directly at head@sjsm.lancs.sch.uk stating which days you would require and also whether you would need before or after-school provision.

Free School Meals

Children who are eligible for income based Free School Meals will continue to receive support during this period of lockdown. Parents of children who are eligible have already been contacted about this. I hope to receive further government guidance about this in the next couple of days.

Accessing work from home

Live teaching will continue daily for the children who are learning from home. Further details about this were given in yesterday's letter. If you have any issues with any aspect of the home learning, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. Please be patient with us as there may be teething problems initially.

I would like to again reinforce messages around behaviour expectations when accessing the live teaching from home. Children will need to behave in the way that they would normally in school and only put comments into the chat when asked to by the teachers. Also, any comments written in the chat must be kept subject and lesson specific at all times. Please can I ask that you reinforce this message with your child prior to accessing the live teaching each day.

Some families may have difficulties accessing the learning online through a lack of technology or access to a printer. School have a limited number of laptops available which can be loaned out to parents who require them. I also received information about a government scheme for families without any internet access that would provide mobile data boosters free of charge to eligible families. If either of these offers interest you, please e-mail: head@sjsm.lancs.sch.uk and we can discuss this further.

COVID-19

Children who are coming in school under the categories of critical worker or vulnerable are still at risk of contracting Covid-19. If your child develops symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, please make sure you keep school fully informed as we will have to ask close-contact groups to isolate for 10 days after being in contact with a positive case. The risks continue to be high, especially with the new variant of Covid-19.

Once again, on behalf of all the staff here at school, I would like to thank you for your patience, understanding and support during these challenging times.

If you have any questions, concerns or you want to discuss any aspect of this letter or the current situation we find ourselves in, please don't hesitate to contact me and I will do my absolute best to help.

Yours faithfully,

D. Toddington
Acting Headteacher
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