



**Headteacher:** Mrs Michaela Velayudhan Tomlin

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Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the government's announcement on Monday evening regarding the closure of schools we have been working through our vulnerable and critical worker list of pupils. I'd like to thank parents for completing the online critical worker survey swiftly and ask that parents/carers that qualify continue to complete this each week. Thank you all for your support and patience over the past week. We had the same information as you on Monday evening and did not receive any guidance until late yesterday.

Can I please stress that the safest place for all children to be during 'Lockdown 3' is **at home**. School will only be open for vulnerable children and critical worker children. We as a school have received an enormous amount of requests for places meaning the numbers of children in school will be high. The aim of the guidance is to 'Restrict attendance during the national lockdown' this is to keep the whole community safe and I kindly ask that you play your part in this. If your child can be at home then they must be. I would also like to reiterate that in the event of a positive case in school the class/bubble will be closed to all children including critical workers and vulnerable if Public Health England and the infection control team advise this.

#### **Nursery**

Our nursery will be open to all nursery aged children from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, as per the government guidance. 30 hour places will only be able to be taken up if you have received your code and school have had the code verified. In addition to this, you will need to have paid your lower foundation provision or extended provision fees before your child starts and received notification from school to confirm their place.

Children in school will be part of a classroom bubble and will remain in their classroom bubble. I intend to run Breakfast club in the first instance. In the event of any staffing changes/issues or further guidance this service will be removed and this may be at short notice so I can suggest that you have a contingency for this.

#### **Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club**

Children who are booked for breakfast club will enter through the usual doors and will be given toast and a drink. Please ensure that you pre pay and pre book this service in the usual way. Children must arrive by 8 am. There will be no entrance via any of the doors after 8:10am.

There will be **no** afterschool clubs running.

#### **Lunch**

Children will continue to eat their lunch with members of their class/bubble only. Any child entitled to a Free School Meal who is attending school will continue to receive this service in school. Any child who is entitled to a Free School Meal who is at home will receive weekly food hampers (this does not include universal free school meals).

This Academy is a member of

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Catholic Academy Trust**

Learning Communities, Inspired by Faith





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### **School Uniform**

This should be worn by children attending school. During the cold weather, I am aware that the constant ventilation in school can make the building colder. As a result of this, the children need to have sufficient layers of clothing on and if this means they are wearing an additional jumper that is fine. Branded clothing is not part of the school uniform at any time.

All children need to adhere to their arrival and departure times – this will be reviewed next week after we have a definitive number of children attending. All children attending school need to continue to bring their own individual water bottles every day.

If you have been granted a place you will receive a letter confirming this. These are uncertain times and extremely challenging, you are all doing a phenomenal job to carry on working and home schooling! However, let me be clear the government has closed schools and requested we deliver remote learning, in order to reduce the risk of transmission. School will not compromise the thorough risk assessments carried out in school for the children and staff in school. Parents must not send their children into school unless **absolutely necessary**. As the government have stated 'in the face of the rapidly rising numbers of cases across the country and intense pressure on the NHS, we now need to use **every lever** at our disposal to reduce our social contacts wherever possible'.

I want to express a heartfelt thank you to the parents with children at home who have not requested a place or do not fall into the vulnerable or key worker groups and have the knowledge that their children are learning at home for the next few weeks at least. I understand that this will be disappointing and frustrating, adding pressure to you as parents and I sincerely sympathise with you all.

As remote learning has taken place this week for many of our children I wanted to share that this has been a huge success. We have had high levels of engagement and productive work taking place. In order for this to continue may I remind you school will not tolerate abusive comments or behaviour from children or parents/carers regarding remote learning.

Finally, I can only imagine the panic you felt when the last minute announcement was made on Monday evening; we too shared this with you. We have all been faced with difficult decisions and in school we have been placed in an impossible position once again. I ask that you continue to be patient, understanding and supportive as you have been so far. We will be able to look back at this time at some point in the future and feel happy in the knowledge that we worked together as a school community for the good of our children. Should any of you need further support please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please stay safe and take care.

God bless,

Mrs Velayudhan Tomlin  
Headteacher





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