

"We are God's family; the Light of the World. We work, We play, We pray together."

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

A National Support School

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Head Teacher: Gayle Wilkinson

Dear Parents and Carers,

As explained yesterday, the Headteacher, Chair of the governing body and governing body met this morning to discuss the opening of school tomorrow.

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you that we will be delaying the full opening of school. We do not have the capacity to open safely. This decision was not taken lightly; as of course, we want all of our children in school. We plan to open fully to all children by the 18th January.

Realistically, a return to school at this point in time would be unsafe and disruptive. It simply would not look like it did before Christmas. We have staff isolating, and also children and parents isolating due to positive cases and contact cases. The virus is spreading quickly in our community due to the new strain. We are all too aware that bubbles may close imminently due to more positive cases which would result in a very mixed, disrupted picture across the school and would also mean that our vulnerable children and children of key workers would be forced to isolate.

The following decisions have been made:

-Tuesday 5th January – Online home learning will start for all children. Please see the Home Learning Section on the school website under class pages on Tuesday morning (more information will be issued regarding home learning.)

-Wednesday 6th January – School will open for vulnerable children and key worker children only and provide home learning for all other children until the 15th January. Today, a separate letter of information will be sent out with an updated list of updated critical workers and vulnerable children criteria, alongside a link for an online form for you to fill in. From this, we will organise all staff so that home learning can be provided alongside face to face provision for key worker and vulnerable children.

Again, we cannot stress how upset we are that we are back in this position. We know that this will be a challenge for many parents, but it is the right thing for our school given the situation we are in. Please understand that this is not an extension of the Christmas holidays and we still remain under Tier 4 restrictions. We know that you will fully support the school by not allowing your children to mix outside of households.

Please know that we only ever have your child's and the community's best interests at heart.

Thank you for your understanding,

Yours sincerely,

Gayle Wilkinson
Headteacher

Michelle Rooney
Chair of Governors

