

Tuesday January 5th 2021

Flooding

Following a meeting in school with the local authority representative this morning, I am very sorry to tell you that we have been advised to keep the school closed to all pupils until the end of this week. Work is continuing on the inside and outside of the school until Friday January 8th. Remote learning is being set for the children, as promised, from this morning at 9 a.m.

National Lockdown

I am also very sad to confirm that from Monday January 11th, the school must close to all pupils except the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. Therefore, remote learning will continue for most pupils next week. The expectation is that pupils must engage with the remote learning and staff are available to support any pupils who appear to have difficulties. We will liaise with parents throughout this week regarding individual year group arrangements for home learning.

We already have the details of parents classed as critical workers during the previous lockdown, as well as those children classed as vulnerable. We will contact those parents individually over the next two days to confirm your eligibility.

If your employment has changed, please email info@st-bedes.s-tyneside.sch.uk by 9 a.m. on Wednesday January 6th so that we can confirm whether you are eligible. This is the DfE guidance which you will need to refer to as it has been updated very recently:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#criticalworkers>

Please note that the attendance for critical workers is for when you are **at work and have no childcare**. If you have one parent who is able to work at home then please do not apply for a place. In order to reduce the transmission of the virus, every child who is able to be safely cared for at home should stay at home.

Once we have re-established the critical worker/vulnerable group, I will write to you with arrangements for attending school on Monday 11th January.

I know that this is a worrying and frustrating time for all of you for many different reasons. The children had settled so well during the autumn term and, for most classes, enjoyed 14 weeks of uninterrupted learning. Hopefully, we will be able to return to full-time education later on in the spring term. In the meantime, we will keep in touch with you about the remote learning and personal contact with the children.

With best wishes,

N. Park
Headteacher