



St James' Church of England Academy

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4th January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The Coronavirus Comeback #13

So this is now the third version of this letter that I am writing to you today, following quite a lot of activity at the highest levels of politics and quite a changeable situation nationally.

You may be aware that Scotland has announced the closure of all schools until February the 1st (subject to a review in mid January). It has now also been announced that our Prime Minister is addressing the nation at 8pm this evening and several reliable media sources are reporting that the country will move to 'Covid threat level 5', with every part of the country being placed in Restrictions Tier 4. It is reported that schools will be closed, there will be no more team games in parks but outside exercise will be allowed. These are the reports I've been reading from several sources who have proven reliable in the past and we are taking them seriously.

Given our responsibility to keep our whole community safe, I have spoken today with the CEO of our Trust, Fiona Perkins, and our Chair of the Local Governing Body, Martin Leamon. I have also consulted with colleagues in BCP and our Senior Leadership Team. I wanted to give you as much notice as possible that tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January, **school will be remaining closed to all children**. We are going to use the day to plan logistics, as allowed by the Government. We will need some time to put plans into place for whatever is announced, and we will need to prepare risk assessments, plan staffing, communicate these plans with you and much more. I am very sorry for the last minute nature of this announcement, but once again it feels like we are left hanging by our national leadership and we must do all we can to protect your children, our staff, our community and the NHS. We feel that we cannot bring all children back into school if they are imminently about to be told to stay at home – but we must wait to hear what is announced to understand the detail.

I didn't want to communicate this information to you at 9pm this evening in order that you had time to respond with your own personal arrangements. As soon as we hear what the Prime Minister is announcing I will come back to you with more detail about how we will respond further – that may be later this evening, or tomorrow morning.

As always, I am very grateful for your understanding, your cooperation, your support and your love for St. James' and our community. All of the week's remote learning is on Teams now and I will send further guidance out about that a little later so that your children will have some home learning they can engage with tomorrow.



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It may feel quite frantic at the moment and a little dramatic, but everything is going to be OK. We've got this. (I don't quite know what 'this' is at the moment, but we will get it...!) And we will walk together on whatever new phase of this journey we are about to travel.



With my best wishes, as always,

Jeremy
Principal

#teamstjames
#happynewyear
#cantsharetheotherhashtagiwanttouse