



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Perry Common Road, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 7AB

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Letter to parents in response to Lockdown.
January 2021

Dear Parents,

The country was placed into a national lockdown yesterday despite school being asked to open yesterday. Our task now is to respond to this situation the best way we can, after exhaustive meetings I will set out a potential way forward below. Before doing so I must conclude that whilst we have “been here before” this does however feel very different. The new variant is causing our Health Service to come under great strain and many more people are testing positive both young and old for Coronavirus. Currently school has several staff members very poorly with the virus and a proportion of the staff team are also having to self-isolate because a family member is ill. The only way to get on top of this new variant is to stay at home and reduce social contact to a minimum. So, I write and urge everyone when the key worker provision begins to please only use this service if you have absolutely no other options available to you, something I cannot stress enough.

The short notice and the extent of the virus means that school will have to organise this provision differently than from the first lockdown. This will be set out below and will only begin now on Thursday January 7th to enable school to be prepared properly ensuring the children and staff concerned are as safe as they possibly can be.

1. Key worker families will need to contact school before midday tomorrow indicating if and when they want to use this provision. Proof of key worker status will be requested by the office staff.
2. Key Worker provision will begin on Thursday at 9.00am and be available to 3.00pm each day.
3. The children will need to access school via the rear gates (Y1-Y4 entrance) and will leave via the same gates at 3.00pm.
4. The children will need to wear school uniform and bring their own disposable lunch with them.
5. The children will be in their individual classrooms/bubbles and not in the hall.



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6. Children entitled to free school meals will be contacted separately about arrangements concerning this provision.
7. Mrs Logue will write to everyone tomorrow (Wednesday) about online learning and extra packs that are available if requested.
8. The office will be manned every day and Mrs Logue and I will also be available every day if anyone needs to talk to us about anything.

I wrote back in May that I hoped school would never have to be used in this way again. Sadly, this has not proved to be the case. The situation is appalling for all of us and my understanding is it will remain like this up to at least February half term. We are here to help as best we can in whatever way we can and until we can all return safely. Until then please take care and stay safe.

Many thanks for your support again with all of this.

Fr Simon Ellis Chair of Governors

Mr Aldred Head teacher.



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