

St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

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“Created by God to love and learn”

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

School closure.

Further to my text and email last night, I write with more information regarding our school closure. Firstly, I would like to apologise for the short notice in calling today's emergency INSET day. I appreciate that this may have caused issues with childcare, but we were only able to react once we had the government announcement at 8pm last night.

Teachers and support staff have been extremely busy all day, planning our remote learning provision and arranging the bubble groupings. Our numbers of critical workers, key workers and vulnerable groups is much larger this time, so I would ask parents to consider carefully whether they can keep their children at home. As with the first lockdown, schools are closed except for those that absolutely need to send their children in. Please check the guidance as to whether your child qualifies under this criteria **as you may be asked to provide proof of your eligibility.**

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

We will be contacting you today to inform you whether your child has a place in school. The deadline for requesting places was 11am today, and we cannot accept any further requests. If you are not contacted today with an offer of a place, **please do not arrive tomorrow as we will not have the space for your child.**

Cohorts:

We have four bubbles, or cohorts. Each cohort has approximately 14-22 children in it:

Cohort 1 = Reception + Year 1 (youngest) – Mrs Allen & Ms Kirby

Cohort 2 = Year 1 (oldest) + Year 2 – Mrs Bowen & Mr Isaacs

Cohort 3 = Year 3 + 4 – Mrs Grew & Mrs Swonnell

Cohort 4 = Year 5 + Year 6 – Mr Newman & Miss Triggs

Entry/Exit times:	1 (R + Yr 1)	Yr 1 + 2	Yr 3 + 4	Yr 5 + 6
Time of entry	All children to enter from 8:40-9am. If there is a queue, please stand on a 2m circle.			
Entry/exit	Side gate	Side gate	Side gate	Car park – 5/6 classroom door
Time of leaving	3.00pm*	3.10pm	3:20pm	3.20pm



Breaks and lunch

Break and lunch times will be staggered as before, to maintain the bubbles. Children will continue to eat packed lunches in classrooms. We will be unable to provide a hot meal tomorrow but we hope to return to our hot meal provision on Wednesdays from next week, 13th January.

For this Wednesday, children will be able to choose a sandwich option to eat in the class.

Uniform & PE

For this closure, we are asking children who are in school to wear full uniform please. On the two days when your child has PE, they should come into school wearing PE kit. For cohort 2 this will be a Tuesday and for cohort 4 this will be a Thursday, both with our sports coach Mr Williams. Teachers will let you know when your PE days are as soon as possible. Swimming for year 6 has been cancelled.

Remote learning

For those children at home, we have increased our remote learning provision. Teachers will be uploading 3hrs of work per day, as required by the government guidelines. This will be in the form of daily English and maths lessons, plus an over-arching topic piece of work to last the week. We are recommending Joe Wicks daily YouTube PE lessons too, as physical exercise is very important for overall health and wellbeing. We hope to be able to invite you to our teams assemblies on Mondays and Fridays, as before. Please see the attached instructions to access Google classroom. If you are having difficulties accessing the system please email office@staugustinesprimary.org.uk and we will try and assist. In order to access your child's work please go to to the class page where you are given an option to join a new class by clicking the "+" icon at the top of the screen. Class codes will be sent on a separate email.

Breakfast and After School Club

Due to very low numbers and severely reduced staffing availability, we are unable to offer breakfast and afterschool provision for this week at least. This will be reviewed again on Friday and we will inform you of the situation.

COVID-19 Infection control measures

We will continue to implement all of our stringent infection control measures, including hand washing, wiping tables, maintaining separate bubbles, staggered breaks/lunches and enhanced cleaning. We are also trying to limit items being brought in and out of school. Therefore we are asking that children read their own books at home, or from an online source, e.g. Oxford owl. Children will be listened to read daily at school using our reading scheme.

Please also be aware that there is still a distinct possibility that a bubble may be forced to close in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Thank you for your support and co-operation at this challenging time. It is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

M Hilliam

Mr Mark Hilliam
Headteacher

