



5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the announcement yesterday about the national closure of schools, there are a number of issues that I need to raise with you.

Schools will be closed to most pupils until the February half term, at the earliest. The original purpose of the closure has changed; the short closure was to allow schools to set up testing of staff and pupils but now schools are closing to prevent the spread of the virus from children at school to their families and the wider community. The Prime Minister's key message was that we 'stay at home' and as a result, we must if possible, reduce the number of pupils and staff in school. **Therefore, I am urging parents and carers of vulnerable children and those who are key workers to review if their children can be supervised at home and confirm if they still require a place.** You must do this via the dedicated email covid@stbedesblackburn.com by 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 6th January.

It may be that some pupils can be at home for certain days and therefore, if parents and carers require part-time attendance at school, this is now permitted.

Because teachers will be occupied with on line teaching, pupils who are in school will be completing the same work as those who are at home and will mainly be supervised by non-teaching staff.

The Prime Minister's announcement also stated that the summer GCSE exams will not go ahead in the normal way but what this means is, as yet, unclear. Further guidance is expected from government this week. However, we have been told that the music Btec exam on Thursday, 7th January for Year 10 will go ahead as planned, as will the PE Cambridge National exam on the morning of Monday, 11th January for Year 10 and 11. I cannot stress enough how important it is for our Year 11 pupils to continue to work as hard as they can on their exam courses so that they are ready to deal with the assessments that are required and achieve the grades they deserve.

Last term, we surveyed all our pupils to ensure that they have adequate devices at home to access remote teaching and learning. However, if your situation has changed over the holiday and access to a device for your child is now an issue, please contact school using the same email above.

Yours sincerely

D Callaghan
Headteacher