

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Carol Scanlon

03 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

IMPORTANT INFORMATION regarding school provision from Monday 4th January 2021

I am sure you have been following the media coverage about the reopening of primary schools and I want to update you on our current situation.

Due to the fast-changing events and announcements throughout the weekend and after careful consideration of our school risk assessment, as well as the availability of staff, the Governing Board and Senior Leadership Team have now had to make the difficult decision that it is not yet possible to return children to onsite provision and so will need to **move to remote learning for all children from Monday 4th January 2021.**

The Governing Board and I apologise for the short notice of this decision, especially as we had planned to be fully open on our first day back after the Christmas break.

Remote learning arrangements

For all children remote learning will begin on Monday 4th January. Class teachers will email parents/carers by 9.30 am on Monday 4th January with remote learning opportunities for the children in their class. Staff will review how we proceed with remote learning at the current time and further information will be made available to the community within the next few days.

In-school provision: children of critical workers

We hope to be able to offer some in-school provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers from **Tuesday 5th January**. We will be looking to facilitate provision for all the children of critical workers who were successful in their application for this provision at the beginning of this academic year.

However, we are aware that people's employment status may have changed over the course of the last few months. Therefore, we ask that you contact the school by noon on Monday 4th January 2021 at the following email address: head@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk to inform us if you:

- no longer require critical worker provision for your child
- do not want to take up critical worker provision for your child at the current time
- now think you may qualify for critical worker provision for your child

~ Pray ~ Learn ~ Love ~ Enjoy ~

It is very important that we have current numbers confirmed regarding the children of critical workers who require in-school provision, so please do take the time to **inform us immediately** if your position has changed.

Please consult the following guidance for critical worker status:

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

In-school provision: vulnerable children

The parents/carers of those children who qualify for in-school provision under the category of vulnerable children will be contacted directly on Monday 4th January by a member of the school staff, to discuss in-school provision.

Review

We will continue to monitor the local and national situation carefully and will aim to return to onsite provision for all children as soon as the risk assessment and availability of staff makes it possible to do so. We will of course update you further as soon as we have more information.

Thank you for your understanding and support at this time.

Kind regards,

Carol Scanlon

Headteacher