

Bank Road
Pilning
South Glos
BS35 4JG

St Peter's Anglican / Methodist VC
Primary School
Head Teacher
Mr Rhys Buckley



“Unlocking our potential for life-long learning”

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Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am sure you will have seen the Prime Minister's announcement tonight that the country is going into another full lockdown and that all schools will be moving to remote learning. This announcement has come as a bitter blow as we prepared to welcome children back to school tomorrow.

The decision to close all schools from tomorrow was made known to us at the same time as yourselves at 8pm this evening; I have my own views on the handling of this decision and the disruption it causes both staff and families, but that will keep for another day!

As with the previous national lockdown, the school will continue to offer on-site education for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. We will aim to offer this provision to as many pupils as we are safely allowed. However, as we have only been given twelve hours notice, it is simply not possible for us to do this in a safe manner, ready for tomorrow.

ST PETER'S WILL THEREFORE BE CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS TOMORROW, TUESDAY 5th JANUARY

The possibility of school closing to the majority of pupils has been a possibility since September and so staff have been preparing for this eventuality; from tomorrow morning teachers will be uploading work to their class Google Classroom page. Initially this work will cover Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th January. From Thursday 7th January our full remote learning offer will begin. Full details of this and how you can support your children will be sent out in due course, however I can confirm that this will involve daily English and Maths lessons, supported by video teaching input by class teachers.

Following this letter we will be sending out information regarding how you can apply for a key worker place for your child/children. **We are aiming to have this provision for key worker and vulnerable children available from Wednesday 6th January**, however this will be dependent on further guidance from the government and local authority which has not yet been received.

We do know that the Government has defined critical workers as falling into one of eight groups:
Health and social care; education and childcare; key public services; local and national government; food and other necessary goods; public safety and national security; transport and border; utilities, communication & financial services

Please see Government guidance for more detail:

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

“St Peter's is a dynamic school where children are nurtured, valued and challenged to reach their full potential in a caring, stimulating environment, in which Christian values underpin all our expectations.”

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Please only apply for a key worker school place if:

- ✓ You have **no** capacity to care for your child at home.
- ✓ There is no one else in your home who could care for your child (adults that are working from home should keep their children at home with them).
- ✓ You are a critical part of the frontline fight against Covid-19.

This is not what any of us wanted, but unfortunately it is what we have. Please rest assured that the staff team and I will do our very upmost to keep your children learning and to give them the best pastoral support we can offer between now and when our school reopens to all pupils. Likewise, we are here for you as well. If you or any member of your family is struggling from a well-being perspective, please contact us and we will do what we can for you.

Our school community has this faced up to this challenge before; by working together in the best interests of the children we can do so again.

Best wishes,

Rhys Buckley
Head Teacher