

Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers, Children and Young People,

Further to the Prime Minister's announcement this evening I am writing to inform you that all of our schools will be closed from midnight tonight and will only be opening from tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January 2021) to the children of critical workers, and to vulnerable pupils.

I wanted to offer my apologies that, even though this is entirely out of our hands, the announcement has come too late, and in the evening, which leaves you little to no time to plan for tomorrow. I can assure you however that, whilst our schools are in the same position and will be spending much of this evening replanning for tomorrow's lessons; our staff and schools are ready and prepared for the roll out of the online learning which will start from tomorrow.

Tonight's announcement states that all schools will be closed, other than to the specified groups of children and young people, until February half-term in the first instance. We will monitor the situation closely and will keep you up-to-date as to any changes in guidance, and how we intend for our schools to return to school following the lockdown period.

We will provide an update on free school meals provision as soon as we can tomorrow.

As before, we understand that for some families with children able to attend school during the lockdown there may be concerns about your child(ren) physically attending school. I would urge you to discuss your concerns directly with your school team, who will be able to offer you some reassurance and advise you. If you have any concerns about your child, please talk to a member of your school team. Thank you.

I understand and appreciate the pressure that this late announcement has put onto you all, and I am grateful for your patience as we ensure that we get this next period of time right for your children, and to provide help and support to you all.

As ever, my thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Take good care, stay safe and keep well... and thank you.

With kind regards,

Jez Piper

CEO

Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust