



St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual Primary School

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To: All Parents / Carers
St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School

Friday, 1st January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

[Important Notice - Partial School Closure](#)

I hope that you have been able to enjoy a restful and enjoyable festive period, despite the restrictions that have been in place and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and healthy new year.

The government announced on 30th December 2020 that a number of primary schools would close to most pupils (other than those of critical workers and those who are especially vulnerable) due to the increasing numbers of Covid-19 infections in London and the South East. You may be aware that Harrow was not included in the published list of London boroughs where schools are required to close to most pupils despite the fact that all our neighbouring boroughs were instructed to partially close and the infection rates in our area is similar and increasing.

Since the announcement was made, there has been much discussion between the senior leaders of schools in Harrow, the local authority, public health officials, representatives of local NHS Trusts, local MPs and central government to establish the reason why Harrow was not included in this list and for the government to provide evidence to support this decision. As this has not been forthcoming, Harrow Local Authority has today written to all headteachers to advise them, based on current public health information, to plan to offer remote education to pupils and close schools for most pupils for next week in the first instance.

Having carefully considered the position and information currently available our school believes that the safest course of action is to prepare to close the school to most pupils from Wednesday 6th January until Friday 8th January 2021. This partial closure will be kept under constant review and families will be informed in due course of any changes – please

ensure your contact details are up to date and inform the school office immediately of any change by emailing office@stjeromebilingual.org.

This is not a decision that has been taken lightly but at this stage the school and Harrow Local Authority believe it to be the right one based on the information available to us regarding the transmission rates within our community. Whilst we will continue to support the education of all our children via online learning, (further details to follow next week), our overriding concern is for the health and safety of our whole community including our children, staff and wider families and to ensure we play our part in bringing this latest variant of the virus under control.

Provision for children of Critical Workers

As we did during the closure periods in 2020, the school is committed to providing face to face learning for the children of critical workers i.e. children whose parents' work is critical to the coronavirus response or the EU transition. Please note, this provision is offered on a full-time basis only and that where possible we will continue to make available breakfast and after school club provision.

The guidance on who is eligible can be found on the government website via the link below – please read this carefully.

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

If you believe your child is eligible to receive this provision and you wish your child to attend, kindly complete the Google Form below as soon as possible and by **Monday 4th January 9am at the latest**.

[You are required to complete this document even if you have completed it during the spring lockdown.](#)

Following review of the responses, families will be informed if their child has been allocated the critical worker place.

<https://forms.gle/DgGEptYppxsGLUX4A>

Provision for Vulnerable Children

Parents and carers of children who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and those with an allocated social worker will be contacted directly by school staff to discuss at school provision.

Our staff have been working tremendously hard to facilitate the ever-changing needs and requirements surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. We are deeply grateful for your patience and understanding and will keep you informed should the situation change for any reason.

We continue to pray for the health and well-being of our community and the world as it continues to respond to this pandemic. Whilst the vaccine has provided so much hope for us all, we must still continue to be vigilant during the period of roll out of the vaccinations to the whole population.

This country's indomitable spirit will prevail throughout the many hardships we face. Thank you for your unfailing support. We are here for you all and will be in contact to keep you updated throughout the coming days and weeks.

With every blessing,



Revd. Daniel Norris
Executive Headteacher