



St Joseph's Catholic Academy

Member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

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Principal- Mrs L Hamilton

Monday 1st February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Last week the Government announced that schools would remain closed until at least Monday 8th March. Once again I sincerely apologise for the inconvenience this will cause all of our parents.

In addition to this announcement we were informed that schools should be closed to ALL pupils including children of critical workers and those who are deemed vulnerable for the half-term break (Monday 15th to Friday 19th February). Despite this closure we will still continue to support the government with track and trace.

Please remember that you still need to follow all the lockdown guidance and I have enclosed a copy of a poster with this letter to support you. It is most important that if you do develop any of the below symptoms that you arrange to get tested.

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If any child, who has attended school prior to the half-term break receives a positive test for COVID-19 on any date, I ask that you inform the school by email (stjoseph@snewman.co.uk). This will enable us to identify any contacts. Please rest assured we are very hopeful that we will not need to do this.

During this time the Local Authority will be providing food vouchers for our children who are entitled to **benefits related** Free School Meals in the same way they did over Christmas. You will receive details of this before half term. I am sure you will all agree, all staff in school have worked incredibly hard to try to ensure that we can continue to provide a high quality education to all our pupils.

Thank you to you all for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

L. Hamilton

Mrs L Hamilton
Principal

