



Covid-19 Update: IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Parents & Carers,

Firstly, we wanted to thank you for following the Covid-19 safety measures we have put in place in school to keep everybody safe. We also want to thank the whole staff team who have worked tirelessly to ensure that all protocols are met. We are proud of how the school community has adapted to the new systems. They have proved successful this Autumn term in containing the spread of the virus within bubbles. Please continue to follow the **Tier 3 guidance** as advised by the government.

School has been inundated with a large amount of concerns raised to the school with regards to children coming into school for the final week of this term. Also, many queries asking why the Government or Local Authority has not told schools to go fully remote and why other local schools in Burnley and Pendle have offered a full remote package for their schools. We are aware of the Government standpoint and also that of the parents who are very concerned. We understand that many families are worried and concerned regarding the potential bubble closures in the final week, which could result in your child/children having to isolate for the whole of the Christmas holidays. As a result of this we would like to offer a compromise and a blended approach to the final week of term.

Schools are all different, throughout this pandemic we have followed Government guidance and we have done what is right for our school.

We totally understand that there are significant worries about the **potential isolation your child would face for the duration of the holiday period, should there be a positive case of Covid-19 in your child's class..** We know that **this would result in families not being able to visit relatives, under the Government guidance (3 family bubbles), the child not being allowed to leave the house and nobody being able to visit,** which we appreciate would be devastating for all families but especially the children.

Although the numbers of positive cases in Burnley and Pendle are coming down, the areas where our children live are still classed as areas of 'very high alert'.

Taking this risk into consideration and the effect this could have on the mental health and well-being and potential physical health of our children, their families, wider families and staff, we have taken the decision to **offer remote home learning to any family for the last week of term should parents choose to.**



Thankfulness - Trust - Honesty - Friendship - Love - Peace - Forgiveness - Respect - Courage

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This will be authorised should you request this as long as we have evidence of engagement with remote learning on TEAMS or the paper packs sent out previously.

An app notification will be sent out to parents for you to make an informed decision either way.

School will be open for any families (who are not isolating) until the 18th December, who choose to send their child into school on the last week. Families are fully informed of the risks of potential isolation over Christmas. This also means that school could be in contact with you as late as the 21st December via the app to let you know if your child needs to isolate.

All staff who are well and not isolating will be in school as normal for the final week. They will be providing support for the children.

The Governing Board wanted to let you know of the decision in advance so that you can make the necessary arrangements. **The school needs to know your decision via the app.**

Please also keep your child at home if your child is feeling unwell with a high temperature, cough or cold symptoms, please do not take the risk. The risk we do face is that when a pupil or member of staff contracts coronavirus it may spread through the rest of the class and out into homes, to other family members/wider community and to vulnerable people. This could be 'just a cold' but school staff are not clinicians and cannot distinguish between what is 'just a cold' and what is potentially the coronavirus. Sending your child into school does put children, families and staff at potential greater risks. Please keep your child off school until they are well and if possible get a test. Unlike previous years, please do not send them in 'to see how they get on'. If they have a positive test and have been into the school then the whole bubble would need to isolate. Please do not send your child in if you are awaiting results, we can always offer remote education for the pupils should the child be off.

In the meantime, we thank you for your continued support throughout this pandemic. We are so pleased that there is hope on the horizon.

With Kind Regards

The Governing Board of St James' Lanehead and Mrs M Dugdale, Headteacher

