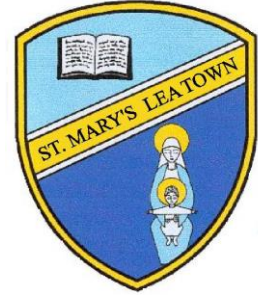


Head Teacher - Mrs A Brogden
e-mail: head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Darkinson Lane
Lea Town
Preston
PR4 0RJ
Tel: 01772 729881
www.lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk



*'Happy are those who hear the word of
God and keep it' Luke 11.28*

Sunday 3rd January 2021

Dear Families,

I write to you regarding changes to the planned re-opening of school from Tuesday 5th January 2021.

As you will have seen and heard from various Media sources, there is a new variant of Covid- 19 that is significantly more infectious than previous strains and cases of COVID-19 have risen markedly in the South East of England with reports of the new strain being seen in the Midlands and the North of England. More recently, the Teaching Unions have expressed concerns relating to the Health and Safety of both staff and pupils and believe that, like the secondary schools and London Primary School model, schools should remain closed for the initial two weeks of 2021. This view is based on advice from Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) meeting on 22nd December and that infections would be unlikely to drop significantly with schools remaining open.

As a result of the current situation and in order to enable you to plan as a family, **St. Mary's school will remain closed and will only open for those pupils of Key workers and/ or those deemed Vulnerable from Tuesday 5th January and through to Friday 8th January.** I will update you within this time frame of our plans going forward.

I can only apologise for the lateness in sharing this information, but, as I am sure you will appreciate, we can only deal with the information when we are presented with it. I have liaised with the staff and our Governing Body who fully support this decision; the safety and wellbeing of all at St. Mary's remains key, as it has been throughout the whole Pandemic. As a school we constantly receive and review guidance, risk assessments and liaise with Local Authority sources accordingly.

I am sure you will have many questions such as "How long will school operate in this way?", "What will remote learning look like?" and I will continue to keep you updated as appropriate.

If you believe you are a key worker I would ask you to email me on Head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk no later than 09.00 am tomorrow (04.01.21) to secure a place. As you will appreciate places are strictly limited to ensure we adhere to the appropriate social distancing measures and Risk

Assessments. As places are limited, priority will be given to NHS staff and those working within Health care. A full list of key workers can be found on the Governments website

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

If your child has been allocated a place you will receive a confirmation text.

Those allocated a place will need to provide their own packed lunch and may wear their own clothes.

For those parents/ carers dropping off and collecting pupils face coverings must be worn

I thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Mrs. A. Brogden