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3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following my letter yesterday, I write to confirm that St. Peter's will be closed for the first 2 weeks of term. I know this news will stir a mixed reaction amongst you – some will be relieved as you were anxious about sending your child/children back to school, and some will feel inconvenienced that home schooling will impact your ability to work. However, please be assured that this decision has not been taken lightly and is intended to keep everyone safe.

In addition to the high transmission rates of the new variant strain that I mentioned yesterday, which was giving us giving cause for great concern, we now find ourselves in a position where we do not have the staffing capacity to open due to the position of the teaching unions on the legal duties of schools to protect the health, safety and welfare of their staff and pupils, and due to the fact that some staff fall into the clinically vulnerable category.

Therefore, from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January we will be reverting to online learning. This will look slightly different from the online learning provision that was in place during the last lockdown, as we have updated our Remote Learning Policy, based on feedback from the whole school community and research evidence. Please visit our Covid-19 website page <https://stpetershenfield.org.uk/covid-19/> to find the policy and watch a short information video on the key changes.

The main difference is that children will need to log in at 9am each day via google classroom and submit their daily tasks by 4pm. During the last lockdown we were able to loan out devices to enable children to access online learning. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if your child needs a device to access Google Classroom.

We will be able to offer limited spaces to vulnerable children and the children of 'critical workers'. This will look different to the key worker bubbles that we operated during the first lockdown, as we will not be mixing year groups and the children will be supervised by TAs to complete the work set on Google Classroom. (Teachers will be setting and marking work as well as supporting children online.) Please do not assume that because you had a key worker place previously that you will have one on this occasion. To qualify for a critical worker place, all adults in the household must be on the Tier 4 critical worker list: you must be a critical worker who is unable to work from home and your working hours are during school hours. Priority will be given to NHS frontline staff. If you wish to apply for a critical worker place, please complete the application form which you can download from the Covid-19 part of our website.

As with the last lockdown, we will need to distribute books and resources for Remote Learning in some year groups. We will let you know as soon as possible how we intend to do this.

We are hopeful that a short period of increased vigilance will mean that we can safely re-open the school as soon as it is safe to do so.

Thank you for the continued support during this incredibly difficult time for all of us. We will keep you fully informed of changes as they happen.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Maurice', written in a cursive style.

D. Maurice  
**Headteacher**

