



We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together

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Sunday, 3rd January 2021

Dear parents and carers

CRITICAL CLOSURE DAY – MONDAY 4th JANUARY 2021

I had hoped to be emailing you with some definitive information today in relation to the return to school from Monday. I am afraid that, regrettably, this is not quite the case.

For a variety of reasons, staffing for the school tomorrow is still unsure and cover may not be sufficient to maintain an adequate level of safety. **As such after careful deliberation we have decided that we must enforce a ‘critical closure day’ tomorrow whilst we plan next steps.**

As such the school will be closed to all pupils on Monday 4th January, including critical worker families and vulnerable children.

We are hoping that tomorrow we will receive further updates from Hertfordshire County Council, including an update to their advised Risk Assessment which will address the return to schools in Tier 4 areas. This would give us the assurance that all that we have planned in relation to a return is adequate. As always, the safety of pupils and staff is of paramount importance to us all.

Staff will be working tomorrow as they continue to convert their in-school learning sequences to remote learning sequences should this be required in the weeks ahead.

All staff will be meeting virtually tomorrow in order to consult on next steps and discuss the best way to support all pupils. The Senior Leadership Team will also meet to plan and communicate next steps.

As always, school closure is a difficult call and not one that any school takes lightly, but we believe it is important that our decisions about the weeks ahead are considered and strategic rather than reactionary. This gives us the space for this to happen. It also gives us time to plan for the necessary cover that will be required in the days ahead.

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, we have seen how the whole community pulls together at St Vincent de Paul School, even with the hardest of challenges and I am sure that this team effort will continue into 2021. Thank you for all that you do to support community and build hope.



I will be emailing later this evening with a link to our Critical Worker Questionnaire in order that we are fully prepared should the school need to move to remote learning at some point over the weeks ahead.

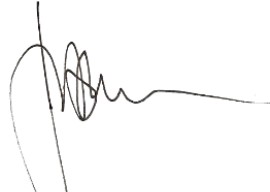
Please keep a close eye on your email, the Twitter feed and the school website for more information which will follow. If you have any concerns or worries, please do email head@stvincent.herts.sch.uk and we will do our best to help you.

Please accept our sincere apologies for the short notice of this decision.

Yours sincerely



Jon White
(Headteacher)



John Sloan
(Chair of Governors)

