

ST. BEDE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Mrs E Alderson
Head Teacher

03.01.2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, may we take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year after what has hopefully been a restful Christmas for you all.

As you will be aware from the news, there is a lot of controversy and differing opinions on whether schools should reopen for all pupils and whether it is safe to do so. As parents, you will no doubt also all have differing views and circumstances. As always at St Bede's, the safety of our whole school community is paramount.

Durham County Council have stated that any decision on school closure should be made by school leaders and their Governing Bodies based on individual risk assessments at local level. With this in mind and having taken into account a range of factors including the current infection rate in Sacriston, availability of staff as well as the school's physical environment and organisation, we have come to the following decision.

St Bede's Primary School will be opening tomorrow (Monday 4th January 2020) and will **remain open to all at present**. This will be monitored incredibly closely and is subject to change. However, in light of the current situation, we would like to **offer parents the opportunity to keep their child at home and access remote learning (for either some days each week or all) if they feel their circumstances allow this or are more comfortable with this at present**. If parents choose to do this, you must ensure your child accesses and submits all work on our remote learning platform each day as, whilst they will not physically be in school, all pupils are still expected to be accessing their education. This will be in line with the teaching taking place in the classroom and will be monitored by staff.

Please note that teachers will need some time to ensure all remote learning is in place. In order to allow them time to sort this tomorrow, we would ask that any children working at home tomorrow access the home learning already on the website. This is at [Home Learning \(stbedessacriston.co.uk\)](http://stbedessacriston.co.uk) and is called Autumn Term 2020 Home Learning, followed by the class name.

We also ask that, for any parents whose children are learning at home, it is vital that you inform us of which days your child will be coming in to school and which days they will be working at home each week so we can keep this information on the register. You can do this by e-mailing the school office at the e-mail above. You do not need to contact us if your child will be coming in to school each day. Please also inform us as you usually would if your child is self-isolating.

We are sure you will understand how challenging the situation is at present and the incredibly difficult decisions we are having to make at very short notice and with very limited guidance. We will continue to work with you and keep you well informed.

Best wishes,

Mrs E Alderson
Head Teacher

Mr M Fingleton
Chair of Governors