

The Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School

www.blessedsacrament.lancs.sch.uk

01772 792572

Headteacher: Miss K J Hannah BA(QTS)



4th January 2020

School Closure

I am writing to inform you that we are unable to open school for the rest of this week to any children other than Critical Worker children and those children considered vulnerable.

The reason we are unable to open is that, in line with union recommendations, a large number of school staff have notified me over the course of the weekend that they are exercising their right to refuse to work in what they consider to be an unsafe environment. I am not able to provide evidence to the contrary and therefore we are not able to open fully in a safe manner.

This is in no part due to a lack of staff confidence in school systems. Their decision is solely based upon union advice that the new variant of Covid has resulted in an increase in transmission and infection rates currently being recorded across England. In their letters provided by their union, they state:

“The most recent advice from SAGE is that schools should not open in January other than for children of key workers and vulnerable children. This is because the scientific advice is that it is not safe for schools to open. There are new variants of Covid-19 that are highly infectious and infection rates have increased significantly since schools closed.

I appreciate that measures have been in place since September to allow the school to open but according to SAGE those measures may no longer be sufficient.”

All staff are willing to continue to support critical worker provision and to support remote learning.

I know that this will create many difficulties for you due to the timing of this letter and the practical complexities of home learning. I would like to assure you of our ongoing support during this difficult time and encourage you to call school / email if you wish to access any support:

Miss Hannah – head@blessedsacrament.lancs.sch.uk / 01772 792572

Miss Liddle – 07722459788

Mrs Stables (digital access support) – admin@blessedsacrament.lancs.sch.uk

We would recommend that in relation to remote learning, questions are directed towards the class teacher in the first instance.

Many thanks for the lovely comments of support that we have had over the last couple of days. This has not been an easy decision to make. I will update you towards the end of the week, should the closure need to be extended.

Yours sincerely,

Miss K J Hannah

Headteacher