

Corporate Services
Head Office
Bell Barn Road
Birmingham
B15 2AF
Tel: 0121 666 6409

Date: Friday 1st January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Changes to school reopening arrangements from 5th January 2021

I would like to start off by wishing you all a very Happy New Year! We are all very hopeful for what 2021 has in store!

In light of the most recent government announcement and the lack of adequate time to implement a safe and efficient testing system across our various sites, the Senior Leadership Team and Board of Trustees have taken the decision to keep the 3 Teaching Centres, **Parkway, Northfield and Dovedale, closed to pupils until Monday 11th January 2021.**

All pupils will be able to access their lessons online as normal from Tuesday 5th January. More details will be shared from your child's Centre regarding this.

We will also offer provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers who are unable to access online learning safely at home on these days, from **Wednesday 6th January 2021.**

Please can you inform your child's Centre Leader if your child needs to attend school from Wednesday onwards.

For all other pupils, we intend for them all to be back at school fulltime from Monday 11th January 2021.

We have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to implement the Governments programme of rapid testing for all children and staff which is designed to keep as many young people accessing education during this pandemic.

We will be utilising the time in the first week to receive the test kits from the Department for Education, train staff across the different Centres, and to gather consent from you around testing your child at school.

It would be useful to gauge your thoughts on school testing as soon as possible, to identify the level of take-up there will be across our Centres. Could you therefore please complete the short form at this address as soon as possible? [COVID-19 Testing at School Survey](#)

We appreciate that the last-minute nature of communications is never ideal, but we are constantly having to react to changes from the government. Please be reassured that we are making decisions to minimise long-term disruption to the learning of our young people whilst keeping things as safe as possible.

Summary

Monday 4th January	Teacher Training Day for all staff as scheduled – no lessons for pupils
Tuesday 5th January	Online learning for all pupils at Dovedale, Northfield and Parkway
Wednesday 6th January	Provision made available for vulnerable children/critical workers children unable to access online learning safely at home
Monday 11th January	All pupils back in school, with testing system in place

Please see below for the contact details for your child's Centre Leader if you have any questions or require provision on the 4 days of remote learning next week.

- Sophie Bartlett, Northfield Centre Leader – 07548713702 – bartletts@jamesbrindley.org.uk
- Louise Thomas, Parkway Centre Leader – 07704539102 – thomasl@jamesbrindley.org.uk
- Charmaine Parry, Dovedale Centre Leader – 07892786367 – parryc@jamesbrindley.org.uk

I will write to you again early next week to update you on our progress with the testing system, and plans for your child's planned return to school on Monday 11th January 2021.

Yours faithfully



Tosin Gabriel
Vice Principal – Head of Parkway, Northfield and Dovedale Centres