

Corporate Services
Head Office
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Date: Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

National lockdown from Wednesday 6 January 2021

The Prime Minister announced last night that a new national lockdown will come into force at 00:01 on Wednesday 6 January.

During the period of national lockdown, schools, alternative provision, special schools, and colleges will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers only. All other children will learn remotely until February half term.

Please can you notify your child's Centre Leader via the contact details below if you would like your child to attend school from next Monday by **Thursday 7th January 2021**. As you know, we had already made the decision to offer remote learning this week prior to this announcement.

Each Centre will be putting together a weekly timetable detailing which staff and pupils will be in attendance. This will need to be planned in advance as we must ensure we are assessing all risks and providing appropriate levels of staff to the children attending. Parents/carers can also request part-time attendance if that supports their work commitments.

If we are ever in a position where we are unable to safely staff a Centre, your child will be invited to attend another Centre or access their learning from home until we have appropriate staffing levels.

In Centre, pupils will mainly be supported to access their normal lessons that are being delivered live via Microsoft TEAMS, therefore all children will mainly receive the same content.

We know that many of our families have valid reasons as to why they would prefer for their child to receive their education at home during this worrying time. We are pleased that the government guidance supports this and will allow us to authorise the absence for any children who receive their education from home during this period. Again, please communicate your decision with your child's Centre directly.

In many ways we are in a better position than in March to deliver high quality remote teaching and pastoral care.

All pupils should now have a device, and many will have experienced remote teaching during last term, but please let us know if there are any difficulties accessing learning remotely. We are also

too aware that a lockdown can have a negative impact mentally and physically. During this time, please continue to support your child to maintain good mental and physical health. Utilise the opportunity to get some daily exercise outdoors.

Please also let your child's key worker know if they need any additional support and we will do our best to facilitate this. There are some tips attached to the end of this letter with some ways you can support your child with remote based learning from feedback we received in our recent pupil survey.

Transport/Travel arrangements

Once we are clear on the number of pupils attending, we will clarify how pupils will be transported to and from the identified Centre.

Free School Meals

Children who are entitled to receive free school meals will continue to receive their entitlement even if they do not attend school. At this point we are unable to ascertain what the catering provision will be weekly as we outsource this service and are unsure if they are able to continue to provide catering. We will however provide lunch daily – this might not always be a hot meal.

Finally, I am aware that guidance changes frequently with very little notice. We will endeavour to continue communicating any pertinent changes with you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully



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

- 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

Supporting your child with remote learning based on feedback from pupils

- Choosing a good place to learn, a part of the house to help them focus.
- Establish routines and expectations.
- Try to plan housework around learning time so your child is not distracted by the vacuum cleaner etc.
- Try to manage siblings so they are not distracting from the learning.
- Ensure your child gets time away from the computer and exercise.
- Stay in touch with teachers at James Brindley Academy. We will be communicating regularly but make sure we know if you need help.
- Help your child 'own' their learning. Provide support and encouragement and expect your child to do their part. Struggling is allowed and encouraged! Don't help them too much. Becoming independent takes lots of practice.
- Begin and end the day by checking-in with your child
 - In the morning, you might ask:
 - What classes/subject do you have today?
 - Do you have any assessments?
 - How will you spend your time?
 - What resources do you need?
 - What can I do to help?
 - At the end of the day, you might ask:
 - How far did you get in your learning tasks today?
 - What did you discover? What was hard?
 - What could we do to make tomorrow better?