



# Trinity Church School

Woodborough Lane, Radstock BA3 3DE

Telephone 01761 438650

Executive Headteacher: Michelle Parsons NPQH. M.A., B.Ed(hons)

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Following my last letter on Tuesday, I wanted to take the opportunity to pass on some further information regarding the current school closures.

Whilst school closures were being talked about in the news last week, none of us imagined that the closure would be quite so immediate or for so long. Thank you all for responding to the situation so well and making alternative arrangements. I would also like to thank all of our staff who have made the necessary arrangements so quickly.

I need to emphasise that school is closed to all pupils except those whose parents are critical workers, or those who have been identified as the most vulnerable. Last year, we had two different methods of opening. In March we offered places to the identified pupils who needed it most and whose parents were both frontline keyworkers. I must emphasise that we are currently working in a similar manner to the first lockdown. I must make a request that if your child is eligible for a place, but you can make arrangements for them to stay at home - **keep them at home**. If your child needs the place, we will do our best to accommodate them. However, we are currently having very high request rates. During this period we need to make sure that we have fewer pupils in classrooms and I need to ensure fewer staff are on site. So, I must make a plea - if you can manage without the school based provision, please don't ask for it – support for home learning will be available for all. We must reduce the numbers of pupils actually in school in the short term. During this period we need to reduce the size of class bubbles to allow more space in classrooms. This does mean we cannot accommodate as many pupils as we would usually.

I must emphasise that our staff have their own families and are equally as worried about the impact of the virus as many of you are. The Prime Minister has made it clear that infection rates are very high and rising. I am concerned that many of our staff could become ill and unavailable for work. We are working hard as a team to make sure we can offer support to families using a much reduced staff team onsite. The more staff that are required each day, the higher the likelihood that they will become ill. The more staff who are at home ill, the fewer the spaces we will have available in the coming weeks.

When staff are not actually in school, they will be providing home learning and using a lot more video call technology. Staff will also be making materials for home learning and many are pre-recording sessions. Staff will also be making contact with children to provide feedback and encouragement. This all takes time. When staff are working in school, they are not able to also manage the home learning. If you are able to keep your child at home, please do. If you are having any challenges with home learning, please contact your child's class teacher, in the first instance, via Seesaw or through the office email ([office@trinitychurchschool.com](mailto:office@trinitychurchschool.com)). We know working from home will be required for this half term. If you have any questions, or suggestions, please pass them on sooner, rather than later. This means we can improve it sooner! If IT access is an issue, talk to your child's teacher. We will be able to offer you support or alternative means of accessing the learning.

If you are eligible for benefits-related free school meals there will be boxes of lunch food provided next week. Each box will contain 5 days' worth of food and there is one box per child. Free school meals should not be confused with Universal Free School Meals, which all Key Stage 1 children receive. You can check your eligibility for free school meals [here](#) where you can also apply.



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The next couple of months will be challenging for us all. I am hoping that we can all work together to ensure children keep learning in the smoothest manner possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or myself (via the office email). If you have already requested a place but can now make alternative arrangements, please let the office know as soon as possible. Remember, spaces in school are for those that need them. If you don't need it at the moment, keep your child at home.

From next week, we will be offering a reduced Breakfast and TASC provision for those parents who absolutely require it. Breakfast club will be available from **8am and TASC from 3-4pm**. To request a place, please book via ParentPay in the normal way booking either Breakfast Club or Short TASC. If your request is unsuccessful, the school office will be in contact with you. We are unable to offer this facility to Nursery children.

The temperature outside is currently very low and it is equally cold in school. There are fewer bodies in the building and windows and doors need to remain open. We have therefore decided that children will no longer be required to wear their school uniform when in school. Please ensure your child comes to school dressed warmly, with layers.

Finally, please encourage your child to continue reading at home. We are unable to give out school reading books. However, you can access free ebooks from [Oxford Owl](#)

Thank you for your cooperation in these challenging times. I hope that you and your families are managing to keep safe. If you have any further challenges, please talk to us. We have staff available who can offer support and guidance or signpost you to help you manage during these times.

Yours sincerely

**Michelle Parsons**  
Executive Headteacher