



Sunday 3rd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I understand that you will be very concerned at the information in the press and on social media and that the uncertainty around schools reopening causes great difficulty. I am so very sorry for the stress this causes to you and your children.

As you will be aware there has been a lot of debate about the reopening of primary schools and during the last twenty four hours several unions representing staff working in all areas of education have been advising their members to refrain from teaching full classes and to teach through online learning. They have advised that staff should only be in school to teach those who are vulnerable, children with Education Health Care plans and children of keyworkers. The reasons given for this advice are based on the new variant of Covid-19 which is highly infectious and on the significant increase in rates of infection since schools closed for Christmas.

In addition to this rapidly developing national situation there are several other pandemic related factors affecting our staffing levels at St Wilfrid's. As head teacher I have to work with the governors and Catholic Education Trust to ensure that our school can open safely with the staff that are available.

Whilst I am still waiting for some information at national, local and school level I need to make you aware that it is highly likely that we will only be able to open to those who have an Education Health Care plan, are classed as vulnerable and the children of key workers.

If your child would fall into one of these categories and you would like them to attend school should we have to close to most pupils please email admin@stwilfridsblyth.uk with your child's name, class and your job title if you are a key worker. We appreciate that you may have done this already during the national lockdown but to avoid confusion and to help us to plan please supply us with these details again.

I am in communication with the governing board and the academy trust and will let you know arrangements as soon as these have been agreed. The situation will be reviewed weekly.

Once again my apologies for this situation and contacting you all on a Sunday evening.

Yours Sincerely

Pauline Johnstone.