

Hartsfield JMI School

Clothall Road, Baldock SG7 6PB
<http://www.hartsfield.herts.sch.uk>



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4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Partial School closure 5th January- 15th January

I am writing on behalf of the Governing Body and myself to notify you that the school will be closed to all but vulnerable and critical worker children from Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Today, at short notice, we have had to reconsider our position. Trade unions (representing school teaching and non-teaching staff) have recommended to their members that they don't attend school due to safety concerns. Unions have further advised that staff should only support either remote education or face to face teaching for vulnerable and key worker children.

Our situation is also complicated by staff who are currently self-isolating, positive to Covid or recovering from being unwell.

After speaking with the local authority, consulting with Governors, listening to staff and reviewing the many emails we have received – as well as being very aware of the high infection rate in our local area – we have reached a decision. We are not able to operate safely due to a lack of staff and therefore will not be opening the school on 5th January as previously proposed. Instead, we propose to reopen Hartsfield JMI School to all pupils on 18th January.

We understand that this decision will have a big impact on your daily routine and your family life. We would like you to know that we did not take this decision lightly and that we are committed to the well-being and learning of your child. We also have their safety, your family's safety and the safety of our staff at high priority.

We will still be open to the children of critical or key workers, or children who are deemed to be 'vulnerable'. We have a list of 'critical workers', gathered last term, and their children will be in school full-time. We will be communicating with those families this afternoon in addition to parents of 'vulnerable' children. If your circumstances have changed since we gathered that information last term, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Remote learning will be expected of all other pupils. Weekly timetabled activities will be set either on our website 'Home Learning Resources' pages or via Google Classroom linked to our Remote Learning Policy. I will email later today to give more details.

We will still be offering a free school meal provision to pupils who qualify. Those who are in school will be able to access hot meals as usual. Those at home will receive supermarket vouchers.

Once again, thank you for your support and understanding during these difficult and uncertain times.

Yours sincerely

Philippa Smith (Mrs)
Headteacher

