



Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School

Hurst Lane, Birmingham, B34 7HN
T: 0121 747 2782 | F: 0121 749 3004
www.grdangel.bham.sch.uk
enquiry@grdangel.bham.sch.uk

Guided by the teachings of the Church we pray, work, celebrate, and care for each other and the other people using the gifts we have been given by God the Father, Son and Spirit.

Monday 4th January 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following my update earlier today, I'm now writing to let you know that **we have been instructed to close the school to almost all children from Tuesday 5th January 2021 until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of Critical Workers (Please see the appendix to this letter for guidance) and children who are classified as vulnerable. Please note that if a child is from a family where ONE parent is a critical worker and the other is not, then it would be appropriate for that child to be at home, as in the first lock down. **This will begin on Wednesday 6th January 2021.**

In order to protect our staff, children and the families of critical workers, these pleas **MUST ONLY BE USED IF THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO ALTERNATIVE**: children are safer at home. We do not expect our number of places to increase much from the previous lockdown, which was just manageable. If we are overwhelmed with applications, we may need to prioritise specific pupils.

The children that attend school will complete the same online learning as pupils at home as well as filler activities that are not curriculum based. Staff will be in school on a rota basis and children will be in mixed year group bubbles with a maximum of 15 children per bubble.

If you believe that you require a CRITICAL worker place, please fully complete the form by 12pm tomorrow 05/01/2021: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hK6Sjwgw_kWNfZnF5eafIU3-vDc7fGBHozKO4ZgEO7VUMUVNVkRPQzdQMEcOMEpJSE5BWDBJSjVXQj4u

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Tuesday 5th January 2021 onwards.

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this using our email and text message service as well as on our school website.

Whilst school is closed, we will keep in touch with you in the following ways:

- The school website will be updated with any new information
- The email and text message service will be used
- The weekly newsletter will continue with key information and notices. This is available on our school website. If you have signed up to the service, this is emailed directly to you.
- The schools Twitter account will be updated with any new information
- Forms will be sent to audit whether your child is able to access the internet and home learning.
- By the end of this week, Daily Teams sessions will be running for your child with their class teachers and teaching assistants. A schedule of when and how you need to join will be sent out shortly. This will be a short session each day to check in, ask any questions about home learning and to generally ensure children are completing their timetabled home learning. If pupils do not attend this session, a text or call will be made home to check on their welfare- just like when a child does not attend school. If we are unable to gain contact in this way, an emergency home visit will take place.
- Pupils can contact their class teacher and teaching assistant using J2Message on BGFL365





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What we'll continue doing while your child is at home:

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn in the following ways:

- Children should access their daily home learning using the school website pages:
EYFS: <https://www.grdangel.bham.sch.uk/home-learning/eyfs>
Year 1: <https://www.grdangel.bham.sch.uk/home-learning/year-1>
Year 2: <https://www.grdangel.bham.sch.uk/home-learning/year-2>
Year 3: <https://www.grdangel.bham.sch.uk/home-learning/year-3>
Year 4: <https://www.grdangel.bham.sch.uk/home-learning/year-4>
Year 5: <https://www.grdangel.bham.sch.uk/home-learning/year-5>
Year 6: <https://www.grdangel.bham.sch.uk/home-learning/year-6>
- Access to online learning platforms such as J2Blast, Times Tables Rock Stars, SPAG.com, MyMaths (logins and passwords are in your child's planner) If your child does not have access to these or you require a password, please email enquiry@grdangel.bham.sch.uk
- The school website has a wealth of resources and information such as:
 - *****Home Learning***** area
 - Knowledge organisers
 - Year group guides with full spelling lists and curriculum expectations.
 - Links to websites, suggested book lists and games

If your child usually receives free school meals we will be in touch with more information about how and when we will be able to provide this support as soon as we have been given the information by Government.

I appreciate your continued patience and support as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but the reality is that the virus has become out of control once again and that school is not the safest place for your child to be at this time. We will continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via emailing enquiry@grdangel.bham.sch.uk.

We anticipate that our limited telephone lines will be extremely busy over the next few days, so please **only contact the school office in an emergency.**

May God bless you all

Mrs Helen Milligan
Head Teacher

