



[www.st-aidans.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.st-aidans.northumberland.sch.uk)

[Admin@st-aidans.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:Admin@st-aidans.northumberland.sch.uk)

3.1.21.

Dear parents/carers,

We hope that this letter finds you safe and well.

An emergency meeting of the full governing body was convened this evening (Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January) due to the rapidly evolving situation regarding teaching unions and the closure of schools.

As it currently stands, the NEU (one of the main teaching and support staff unions) has advised its' members that they should not return to the classroom as of Monday, 4th January and they are urging the government to provide face to face teaching for key worker and vulnerable pupils only with all other children accessing learning remotely. Unison, the union that represents the majority of our support staff, echoed this decision shortly after.

It is suggested that this remains in place for a minimum of two weeks in the hope that the rate of infection will reduce and to enable schools to establish a mass testing response. All unions are united in wanting to ensure that schools are as safe as they can be as quickly as possible.

**In light of this meeting, and with the support of the governing body, St. Aidan's will not reopen to the majority of pupils on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January until parent/carers are advised otherwise.**

**We will remain open to vulnerable pupils and the pupils of key workers during this time. Online learning will commence for all other pupils from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

Parent/carers of these children are asked to contact the school office, preferably via email, [admin@st-aidans.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-aidans.northumberland.sch.uk) on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, no later than 1pm to help us plan for their provision.

We hope to provide as many places for vulnerable pupils and the pupils of key workers as possible but this will depend on available staffing. **Therefore, we would very much appreciate if you only avail yourself of a place, if your child cannot be cared for safely at home.**

A list of what constitutes an essential worker can be found here:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We have a limited supply of electronic devices and Data SIM cards to allow for internet access to support online learning for any family that will require one. Please contact school if you wish to avail of this.

If your child is eligible for means tested free school meals, we will be in contact in due course to arrange this provision.

As a school, our first priority remains the safety of our young people, staff and families. We will continue to follow all guidance and work to deliver a quality education to all of our young people.

We remain committed to ensuring all of our young people are in school and benefitting from face-to-face teaching but need to ensure that it is safe to do so.

NORTHUMBERLAND  
COUNTY COUNCIL

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Headteacher



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This is a decision that has not been taken lightly, but one that is unavoidable given our current circumstances. It remains our upmost priority to provide face-to-face teaching for all of our pupils, when it is safe for this to take place.

We appreciate the difficulties facing some of our families given this last minute decision. We will endeavour to update parents with more information when we receive it. It is not a decision that has been arrived at lightly and we are committed to frequently reviewing this situation in light of national and local circumstances.

As always we are working in the best interests of our children, staff and local community. Thank you for your continued support and understanding in what has been a very challenging year.

God bless,

Miss Howe – Chair of Governors

Mrs Leslie - Head teacher

Mr Moran – Deputy Head teacher