



5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Covid-19 Lockdown

As I am sure you will have seen on the news, all schools are now closed until Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. The Government have taken this decision as the new strain of virus is considered 70% more infectious than the previous strain and there is now clear evidence of transmission in schools. At St Clement's we have seen a significant increase in the number of cases. Between March and December 2020 we had only two students test positive for COVID-19, whereas over the Christmas break 7 students reported a positive result.

The school remains open by prior agreement for children of keyworkers and those with specific vulnerabilities. The children and staff in school will be subject to regular lateral flow tests; these are of course optional so not all children in school will be tested.

All students are now moving to online learning, this will be either tasks set for students to complete, recorded lessons for them to follow or live virtual lessons. In addition we will hold regular live virtual assemblies. Students are asked to follow the subjects on their usual timetable; live lessons will follow the specific timetable timings for each year group used prior to this lockdown. All work will be set via the google classrooms already established. Anyone struggling with computer access should contact us via the office email and we will work with you to find a solution.

The Government announcement stated that the summer GCSE exams will not go ahead as planned. The detail about how our students will be assessed has not yet been released. **The Department of Education have announced that the imedia exam will go ahead on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January as planned.** Before placing students together in an exam hall, it is sensible that we ask these students to complete the lateral flow test. We will contact those students involved in this exam to explain the arrangements for both their Covid-19 test and the imedia examination.

This has again been a rapidly changing situation; we will keep you updated on all future developments. Thank you for your on-going support in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N. K. Willingham  
Headteacher