



# Five Ways Primary School

Langholm Drive  
Heath Hayes  
Cannock  
Staffs  
WS12 2EZ

Headteacher:  
Telephone:  
Website:  
Email:

Mrs Rachel Mander B.Ed. Hons  
01543 278071  
[www.fiveways.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.fiveways.staffs.sch.uk)  
[admin@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk)

5th January 2021

Dear Parents,

## Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) update:

As you are aware, the government has now moved the Covid Threat Level to its highest rating of 5. Consequently, the Prime Minister has announced that all primary schools are to close to the vast majority of pupils with immediate effect.

Due to this announcement, Five Ways will remain CLOSED to the majority of pupils from tomorrow and we will be continuing to provide online learning activities. However, I would like to make you aware that virtual lessons via Zoom or Google Classroom, will not take place on Friday 8th January, as staff will be attending school to collect resources required to enhance online learning. Learning activities will still be made available to your child on 8th January however, they will not have any contact with their teacher on this day. Online learning will resume as normal on Monday 11th January and a letter from your child's classteacher will be published on our school website within the Home Learning section. Letters will be available from 5.00pm each Sunday detailing learning activities for the week ahead.

We are still in the process of making arrangements for pupils who are entitled to **free school meals**. More details of this to follow.

## **School CLOSED to Key Worker / Vulnerable Children for the remainder of this week**

I would like to thank all critical workers and parents of vulnerable children for applying for a place for your child to attend Five Ways during this lockdown period. As you can appreciate, there is a lot of organising to do over the next few days to enable us to open safely for critical worker and vulnerable children. We also have limited staff available to us who will be able to care for this group of children. This is because all registration teachers will be engaged in delivering online learning on a daily basis and cannot care for children in school at the same time.

For this reason, I regret to inform critical workers and parents of vulnerable children that school will remain **CLOSED** for the rest of this week to enable us to organise a safe return to school for this group of children from Monday 11th January 2021. I know that this will present with further difficulties for many families and I apologise again for the short notice and the inconvenience that it will cause.

During the remainder of this week, we will be reviewing how many spaces for children of critical workers we can accommodate and will do this on a tiered system according to need. As stated earlier, registration teachers will be required to run online learning for the majority of pupils, so, unfortunately, we have to limit the number of spaces we can offer. The spaces will be for families who have no other adult at home to care for their child. I would like to stress to



parents that the safest place for children is to be at home at this time; mixing with other children will heighten the risk to them and your families. Children who we assess as 'vulnerable' will be in school every day.

In order to assist us in organising our provision for children of critical workers / vulnerable children, another letter will be sent to the parents who have already applied for a place later today. The letter will include an application form requesting further information from parents so that we can begin prioritising who will be eligible for a place. Information regarding Breakfast and After School Club will also be included in the letter.

Once places have been allocated, parents will be informed by midday on Thursday 7th January if their child has been allocated a place and will be able to attend school from Monday 11th January 2021.

We were all very much looking forward to welcoming pupils back following the Christmas break, but will now have to wait until it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we will do our utmost to continue to support the learning of all our pupils and to support our community during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rachel Mander  
Headteacher

