



Tower Hamlets Road  
Forest Gate  
London E7 9DA

# St. James'

Church of England  
Junior School



Tel: 020 8534 4030  
Fax: 020 8555 3721  
Email: [info@st-james.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-james.newham.sch.uk)

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Following [this week's announcement by the Department for Education](#) that it will be implementing its School Contingency Plan, we can confirm that school will not be re-opening to most pupils during the week commencing January 4.

We understand the anxiety and inconvenience this will cause, and we are sorry to have to share this news with you. However, Covid-19 infection and transmission rates in Newham remain extremely high, and it is important that we all play our part in trying to reduce the risk to our communities, our colleagues and our loved ones.

The government's contingency plan introduces additional extraordinary restrictions on schools in areas with very high rates of Covid-19 infection or transmission, as is the case in Newham

While school is closed, we will be working with the local authority to set up testing for staff and teachers, to help pave the way for a safer return to face-to-face learning as soon as possible. In the meantime, we will be providing substantial remote learning for pupils at home, and will remain open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers. If you believe that your child is eligible to return, please do get in touch.

The government has not yet indicated when primary school pupils will be able to return to lessons, although they have said that they hope for this to be as soon as possible and will review the situation every two weeks. The first review is expected on January 18, and we will update parents and carers as soon as we know more about return to school arrangements.

In the meantime, you can continue to play your part in helping to reduce infection rates in Newham by sticking to the Tier 4 restrictions and staying at home as much as possible.

Further information about Tier 4 restrictions in Newham can be found on the council's website here: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/c19-information-advice> and we have published some additional frequently asked questions below.

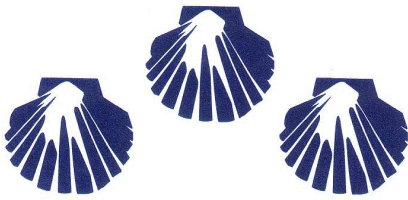
Kind regards

Rose Boland-Bourne and Fiona Hall  
Co-Headteachers



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

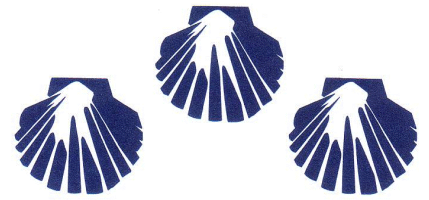




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## FAQs

Q. Will you be offering online learning while school is closed?

A. Yes – we will contact you through text to inform you with further details. Your child has their own email and access to Google Classroom.

Q. We don't have access to a tablet or computer/internet – how can my child access online learning?

A. Please contact the school directly through dedicated email: [covid@st-james.newham.sch.uk](mailto:covid@st-james.newham.sch.uk)

Q. Will my child continue to be provided with free school meals while school is closed?

A. Yes. We will make arrangements for those children who receive free school meals, you child's school will be able to provide further details.

Q. I am a critical worker – will school be open for my child?

A. Yes, we will make provision for critical worker children to attend school.

Q. I think I may be a critical worker? How can I be sure?

A. Further information on critical workers and vulnerable children can be found on the government website here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Q. Why are nursery schools and children's centres open when primary schools are closed?

A. Government guidance is clear that early years settings should remain open at this time, but that primary schools must close.

Q. My child goes to school in an area where schools are remaining open. What happens to them?

A. If your child usually attends a school that is remaining open, they should continue to attend as usual. You may contact your specific school for further information.