



# Brentnall Community Primary School

Northumberland Street, Salford, M7 4RP

Tel: 0161 792 4317

Headteacher: Mr. M Thompson  
Chair of Governors: Rev. S Fletcher

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parents/carers,

## UPDATE: SCHOOL OPENING

I hope that you have all enjoyed the festive season and, on behalf of the staff and governors, we would like to wish you and your families a very Happy New Year.

I am sure you will have heard or seen lots of discussion in the media about whether or not schools are remaining open across all Tier 4 areas. Currently, Salford Local Authority is asking that primary schools open as planned at the beginning of January. However, I wanted to let you know that a letter has been sent to the Department for Education by our City Mayor, Paul Dennett, and Councillor John Merry. This letter urges the DfE to reconsider their current position around face to face learning in Salford.

In the meantime, I wish to confirm that, as of today, Brentnall Primary is planning to open as scheduled on **Tuesday 5th January to all classes, except Year 5 (Zircon) and Year 6 (Tanzanite)**. Unfortunately, we are unable to open these classes due to staff shortages. A separate letter is being sent to the parents of children in these classes to explain the situation in more detail.

It is worth noting that this plan is subject to change based on National and/or Local directives. If there is a change to our plan for opening, I will contact you as soon as possible; please be aware that this notification may be "last minute".

In preparation for returning to school on Tuesday 5th January, we need to **ensure that this happens safely**.

Please let us know immediately, by email to [info@brentnallschool.uk](mailto:info@brentnallschool.uk), if anybody in your household has developed COVID-19 symptoms, been for a test for COVID-19 or been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, during the last 2 weeks.

As you are aware, the new coronavirus variant is significantly more infectious and so it is absolutely necessary that you:

1. Wear a face covering at all times whilst outside and on school grounds. Please do not approach any member of staff without a face covering and **ALWAYS MAINTAIN AT LEAST 2m DISTANCE FROM STAFF AND OTHER ADULTS ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS**.
2. Do not gather in groups outside of the school premises or with anyone else outside of your household
3. Leave the school grounds as soon as you have dropped off/collected your child

In addition to these measures, it is extremely important that **ONLY 1 ADULT** accompanies your child/children to school. **NO OLDER CHILDREN FROM HIGH SCHOOL SHOULD ACCOMPANY YOU**. I urge you to follow these simple rules in order to keep everyone in our school community safe and for classes to remain open for the children.

As of 00:01 on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Manchester was placed in Tier 4 lockdown measures – the highest currently rated to areas. This means that we must not mix households, other than support bubbles for people who live alone, or for childcare bubble – for which there are strict guidelines. Therefore I am afraid that only the parent of each child should drop them at school and will be able to collect them at the end of the day.

Tier 4 lockdown restrictions means that:

- **You must stay at home** and only leave for a specific purpose or if you have a "reasonable excuse".
- This includes going to work if it cannot be done from home, shopping for essentials such as food and medicine, attending education or training, using registered childcare, outdoor exercise and for medical reasons.
- The rules are strict: you cannot meet other people indoors unless you live with them or they are part of your existing support bubble.
- Outdoors, you can only meet one person from another household in a public place.
- **Support and childcare bubbles** can continue in Tier 4 areas.
- **Early years settings and childminders can remain open as normal**, while nannies are also allowed to carry on providing services, including in the home.
- **You are allowed to take unlimited exercise alone**, or in a public outdoor place with your household, support bubble, or one other person.
- **But indoor leisure and sports facilities, including gyms, must close.**

I kindly request that you continue to check the school website regularly as this is our best way of communicating with you all. We will also continue to use email addresses we have on file to send letters for specific classes and home learning, when required.

I shall be writing to you again, either later today or tomorrow, with any updated information I receive over the next few hours. Each time a letter is uploaded to the school website or sent via email, I shall send a text to alert you of this.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Thompson" followed by two dots. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Matt Thompson, Headteacher**