

**Sheila Durr**  
**Executive Director of Children and Young People**



*Our Ref* JK/PAs  
*Your Ref*  
*Date* 15 December 2020  
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Department for Children and  
Young People

Julien Kramer  
Interim Assistant Director  
(Education and Inclusion)

Parents /Carers of children and young people  
in Bury Schools

Dear Parent/Carer

### **COVID-19 UPDATE FOR PARENTS**

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, Bury's latest COVID-19 figure is 222 cases per 100,000 people. Whilst this is lower than at the October half-term, Bury has the highest figure across Greater Manchester and was the only one of the ten local authority areas to show an increase from the previous week.

As you are aware Bury is currently under the highest restrictions of Tier 3. Our figure remains above the national average for England. The tiers will be reviewed on 16 December.

Whilst it is a priority that schools remain open we have continued to see our schools face challenges with positive cases in pupils and staff. A small number of our schools have needed to close temporarily for safety reasons.

Last week the government announced that schools could choose to close to pupils this Thursday and that the 18 December could be used as a staff training day. With the exception of a number of schools that had already allocated Friday as a training day the rest of Bury's schools will remain open to pupils. Christmas is a special time within a school community and, whilst activities cannot be as usual, schools have made plans up to the end of the term.

I would like to remind you that if your child shows any of the three main symptoms of COVID-19 then they should be kept off school, tested as soon as possible and the school kept informed. This is to keep all as safe as possible. The three main symptoms are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back; if you have a thermometer and are able to take the child's temperature this means a temperature higher than 37.8°C
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

During the Christmas holidays, the government has introduced changes for the period 23 – 27 December. During this time you can form one Christmas bubble which should have no more than three households within it and should be kept as small as possible. The government guidance for Christmas bubbles can be found [here](#).

After 27 December you and your family must then follow the restrictions for the tier allocated to the area in which you live.

If your child shows symptoms during the Christmas holiday period then they must self-isolate, be tested and await the result. If the result is negative then they can be included in a Christmas bubble. If however the test is positive then they, and their household, must self-isolate as must their close contacts.

Our schools have continued to provide frontline services this term. We are proud of Bury's pupils and school staff during this time. We want our school communities to have an enjoyable Christmas break and to return as safely as possible in January when the spring term begins. In order to do this we need you to follow government guidance during the Christmas break.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. It is only in working in partnership that schools will be able to return in January with minimal disruption.

I would like to wish you and your families a Happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julien Kramer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

**Julien Kramer**  
**Interim Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion**  
**Children and Young People**

**Electronic or fax service of Legal documents is not accepted**

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