



# St. Vincent's RC Primary School

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Head Teacher Ms. Angela Ness

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

In response to new government guidelines released this evening please note:

In order to reduce the spread of the virus, schools are advised to offer places to 20% of the school population. Thus, at St. Vincent's, approximately **45 children** per day will be allowed to attend school.

**School childcare will be allocated on a priority basis. Please understand that difficult decisions will need to be made.**

- Vulnerable children (on an EHCP plan or pupils with a Social Worker if they CANNOT be looked after safely at home)
- Children of critical key workers:
  - 1 Health and social care: doctors, nurses, paramedics, social workers, care workers and other frontline health and social care staff
  - 2 Education and childcare: teachers, teaching assistants (for those who are still at work)
  - 3 Key to public services - management of deceased, journalists, religious staff or running of the justice system
  - 4 Local and national government - only frontline services
  - 5 Food and necessary goods - food production or delivery
  - 6 Public safety - police, fire, ambulance, probation, prison employee
  - 7 Transport - those who keep the air, water, road and rail passengers operating during COVID19 response
  - 8 Utilities and financial - if essential for COVID19 response e.g. banks, building societies, oil, gas and electric services.

It is clear from government advice that, **'if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading'**. Please follow this advice and do not request a childcare place unless it is absolutely necessary – I will prioritise those who are working tirelessly to: stop the spread of this virus, administering essential medical care and keeping our country running safely.

Not all school staff are able to work at the moment. Therefore, a skeleton staff will be timetabled for the children in our care. Please note, the children in school will not necessarily be taught by their usual class teacher, similarly, lessons will not be timetabled as usual: no teaching will take place that disadvantages the vast majority of children who are completing school tasks at home.

If you do need a childcare place and fit the criteria detailed overleaf, please email **the school** ([admin@stvincents.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stvincents.newcastle.sch.uk)) clearly stating:

**Your profession:**

**Your employer:**

**The days you work (and need childcare):**

You will receive a reply email stating whether your child has been allocated a school place and on which days. If you are given a place, please hand-in proof of your critical role to the office staff, as stipulated by Gov.UK:

*“If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuity of this essential service’.*

Breakfast Club will, for the time being, run as usual for pupils attending school (I know a number of our NHS parents appreciate this early start). Similarly, children attending school are still expected to wear the full school uniform. The school day will end at 3:15pm.

Your support and understanding during this very difficult time is much appreciated. I will continue to post relevant news and documents on the school website and will send text messages when necessary.

My colleagues and I wish you good health, calm thoughts and an uplifted spirit: please keep the sick, distressed and lonely in your prayers.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ms Ness', written in a cursive style.

Ms Ness  
**Headteacher**