



St Joseph's
Catholic Primary School



5 January, 2021

Dear Families,

As many of you will have seen, the Government has announced that schools are to close again for the majority of children.

From Thursday 7th January, school will only be open to Key Worker and Vulnerable children.

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

1. Vulnerable children (on an EHC Plan or Health Care Plan or pupils with a Social Worker if they CANNOT be looked after safely at home).
2. Children of critical key workers as listed below:
 - a) Health and social care (doctors, nurses, paramedics, social workers, care workers and other frontline health and social care staff)
 - b) Education and childcare teachers, teaching assistants (for those who are still at work)
 - c) Key to public services - management of deceased, journalists, religious staff or running of the justice system.
 - d) Local and national Government - only frontline services.
 - e) Food and necessary goods - food production or delivery.
 - f) Public safety - police, fire, ambulance, probation, prison employee.
 - g) Transport - those who keep the air, water, road and rail passengers operating during COVID19 response.
 - h) 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'**. We ask that you please follow this advice and request a childcare place **only if absolutely necessary**.

Please allow us to 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 reduced 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 time tabled 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 above please email the school office@stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk clearly stating:

Your profession:

Your employer:

The days you work(and need childcare):

You will receive a reply by 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.

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

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.

All the staff at St. Joseph’s wish you good health, calm thoughts and an uplifted spirit: please keep the sick, distressed and lonely in your prayers.

God Bless,

E. Mathews
Headteacher

Living, Learning and Loving together with Christ



Spirituality,
Formation and
Education Service

in the



Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle



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