



St Bede's RC Primary School

Howlett Hall Road, Denton Burn, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7HS

Telephone: 0191 2743430

Email: admin@stbedes.newcastle.sch.uk Website: www.stbedes.newcastle.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs L Young

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Keys



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

In response to the new Government guidelines which were released this morning I can now offer the following advice, and hopefully some further clarity.

As all schools are closed from the end of the school day today the Government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and have asked schools to offer provision for the children of parents who are classed as 'Key Workers' as per the Government list.

We are only able to offer a limited number of places and childcare at this time will be allocated on a priority basis. We may need to ask for evidence of your key worker status before offering your child a place in school over the coming weeks.

It is clear from Government advice that '**if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading**'. This means that if you or a child's other parent/carer are working from home or are not a key worker and you can cover childcare arrangements, that you utilise these instead of requesting a school place.

Requesting a school place should be the last resort and we will be prioritising places and given firstly to families where both or lone parents are key workers in groups 2-9 below.

1. Vulnerable children with an EHCP or who have social care involvement **and if they cannot** be looked after safely at home. Please contact school if you need further guidance regarding this category.
2. Health and social care - doctors, nurses, paramedics, social workers, care workers and other frontline health and social care staff)
3. Public safety - police, fire, ambulance, probation, prison employee.
4. Education and childcare - teachers, teaching assistants (for those who are still at work)
5. Key to public services - management of deceased, journalists, religious staff or running of the justice system.
6. Local and national Government - only frontline services.
7. Transport - those who keep the air, water, road and rail passengers operating during COVID19 response.
8. Food and necessary goods - food production or delivery.
9. Utilities and financial - if essential for COVID19 response e.g. banks, building societies, oil, gas and electric services.

We will be informing parents/carers who we are able to offer provision to over the weekend. Please check your ParentPay emails and text messages as this is how we will communicate with you. We



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appreciate that you all need to make plans but we ask you to bear with us whilst we finalise our procedures. Rest assured we will contact you as soon as we are able.

We are currently in the process of organising a rota of staffing within school and will be operating with a minimum staff for as long as we can safely do so to enable us to care for the children who need to attend. During this period of school closures, we will not be operating formal lessons instead there will be a mix of learning opportunities and more creative/physical activities on offer. We plan to run to our usual school day of 8.45 am to 15.05 pm.

Home Learning

Tonight at 16.00 pm a Home Learning page will go live on the school website. Use the resources here to continue learning with your children over the coming weeks. If we are able, we will refresh and update resources on these pages. Please keep checking the website.

Lunches for pupils

Our school kitchen staff are able to provide packed lunches for children when they are in school. Universal free school meal children will receive these free of charge as normal, as well as children eligible for free school meals. All other children will pay as normal through ParentPay or you can send your children in with a homemade packed lunch.

For those children who are not going to be in school, but who are in receipt of free school meals, we are able to make a packed lunch for you to collect daily from school. Please let the school office know if you would like to take up this offer. If you are in receipt of free school meals but are self-isolating, again, please contact the school office as in certain circumstances we may be able to deliver a packed lunch for your child to the home address we have for you.

For children coming in to school as of Monday 23rd March 2020, the following measures/precautions **must be taken:**

- Clean set of clothes to be worn each day. Uniform is preferable but not essential.
- Up to date contact details for family members must be available within school and emergency contact details should your child become poorly/exhibit symptoms of contracting coronavirus.
- We must register your child in and out of the premises by somebody who either has parental responsibility or has been nominated by yourselves, as long as you are all fit and well and not showing symptoms of coronavirus.



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- If you become unwell with coronavirus symptoms, you must **immediately** contact school and arrange for collection of your child.
- Social distancing **must** be enforced whilst your child is not in school if we are to prevent/minimise the spread of infection.
- School **must** be informed if you no longer fall within the critical worker list or you have been asked to self-isolate.
- Thorough hand washing to take place at home just before leaving the home. Handwashing will continue to be enforced throughout the school day and children will wash hands before being collected at 15.05pm.
- Children must be dropped off by 9.00 am and picked up by 3:05 pm

This was not the letter we ever wanted to send out to our families and we will miss you all so much during the following weeks. Please know that we are working with the Local Authority and other Catholic schools so we can deliver a city-wide plan as this situation develops. We will be using ParentPay email and text messaging to keep you all updated as well as posting updates on our school website.

Thank you in advance for your understanding. Your support has been very much appreciated during these challenging times.

Mrs Young
Headteacher