



St Cuthbert's RC Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs C T Barrett

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*'At St Cuthbert's we live and learn in faith and love, through Jesus' teachings.
Our school is a place where we can grow as a family,
helping each other to lead full and happy lives.'*

20 March 2020

School closure due to Coronavirus COVID-19

Dear Families,

St Cuthbert's RC Primary will close today to **all** children until further notice. This is to ensure that we slow the spread of the disease to reflect the government priority to reduce transmission and keep children, families and staff safe.

The government has stressed that parents should keep their children at home and school should only remain open for those children who absolutely need to attend.

School will endeavour to open to children who are vulnerable which includes those who have a social worker or an EHCP and children of key workers. It is important to note that many parents working in critical sectors maybe able to ensure that their child is kept at home. Every child that can be safely cared for at home should be. This is an offer to parents and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

Thank you to those families who have already given us an indication of their position to enable us to plan provision and we would ask if you consider yourself to be a key worker that you contact me before 11 a.m. so that we can consider your request and will contact you directly to confirm an offer. For all our safety we must limit numbers to under **20%** of our school population and may need to priorities critical worker families.

For those children who are eligible and we can accommodate, school will be opened from 8:40 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. from Monday 23rd March. Your child will need to bring their learning pack with them each day. The children will be supported with completing the work set by the class teacher (the same as the other children who are learning from home). This will be combined with other activities. There will be a range of activities throughout the day and we will be encouraging children to be active and creative.

The kitchen is likely to be closed and a packed lunch service will be offered.

I would like to thank all of the staff for their support and hard work in trying to keep school as normal as possible for all of the children. The staff have all been brilliant and I am proud to work with such a great team. We value education and have tried to preserve it for as long as we can. Teachers will provide home learning for all our pupils and we will remain in contact with you via text messaging and the school website. We will provide paper resources for those who have no internet access.

The rest of the year

We have already cancelled all visits and trips planned up to the Easter break. We hope to reopen before the end of the academic year, but at this time, we have no indication of when this may be. When we reopen, our aim will be to try and get back to our normal school routine as soon as possible. We will try and let families know about planned residential trips as soon as possible, hopefully they will still be able to go ahead depending on advice at that point in time. We will always follow the latest government advice.

Do encourage your child to read daily and be creative. A lot of careers are allowing workers to work from home at the moment so this home learning experience may help them prepare for their future careers. They could also be doing lots of good deeds as part of their Lenten promises.

Tips for learning from home:

1. Get dressed at the start of the day.
2. Stick to a set routine with regular planned breaks.
3. Encourage movement breaks, this could be a jog around the garden or jumping on a trampoline.
4. If your child is feeling anxious or stressed do not force them to complete work, have a break and they can come back to it.

The teaching packs will have at least two weeks work and we have not planned work for the Easter break. We will upload key websites your child can use and any additional work as time goes on.

This work will be linked to our curriculum as much as possible.

There are suggested websites your child can explore on the learning pages.

We do encourage physical activity every day so if your child is able to play in the garden please encourage this!

It is important that we all play our part to minimise the spread and impact of this virus.

Good hygiene, particularly washing your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds, is still one of the most effective ways of reducing the risk of infection to you and other people.

How to check if you need medical help:

NHS 111 has an online coronavirus service that can tell you if you need medical help and advise you what to do. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Use the online 111 coronavirus helpline: <https://111.nhs/covid-19>

If you do not have access to the internet you can call 111. You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you are staying at home. For further information please visit: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

This information is constantly being updated so please make sure you check the latest guidance.

DfE Coronavirus Helpline for parents:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Finally, please look after each other and let's see how our 'remote virtual' school experience works out. Things are changing daily and we will keep you updated as soon as we have further information.

Thank you once again for your understanding, trust and support at this challenging time for us all – we are truly blessed to have such wonderful children, supportive parents and dedicated staff.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. C Barrett
Headteacher

