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St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Mrs D Bolton
Head of School: Mrs L Draycott

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers and Staff

From today school is closing indefinitely for most children

It is essential that only those children who qualify as vulnerable children, identified by the school, or those of key workers with no other childcare options, are in school.

In line with Government guidelines the school will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers. If your child is classed as a vulnerable child we will notify you directly.

Government key worker list:

Health and social care

Frontline health and social care staff such as doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, as well as support and specialist staff in the health and social care sector. In addition it includes those working in supply chains including producers and distributors of medicines and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

Nursery, teaching staff and social workers.

Key public services

Those required to run the justice system, religious staff, as well as those responsible for managing the deceased, and journalists providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government

Administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response or delivering essential public services, including payment of benefits.

Food and other necessary goods

Those involved in the production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery of food.

Public safety and national security

Police, support staff, Ministry of Defence civilian staff and armed forces personnel, fire and rescue staff, and those responsible for border security, prisons and probation.

Transport

Those who will keep air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response.





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Utilities, communication and financial services

Staff required to keep oil, gas, electricity, water and sewerage operations running. Staff in the civil nuclear, chemical and telecommunications sectors. Those in postal services and those working to provide essential financial services.

Although we are providing childcare for Key workers, if it is possible to keep your child/children at home then government advice is that you should do.

Parents/carers have a social responsibility to be honest and work closely with us to follow government instructions carefully, minimise social contact and not put others at risk.

No child should attend school if they are showing Coronavirus Symptoms or are sharing a house with someone who is showing symptoms/self-isolating. Please follow government guidelines on self-isolation -ie being symptom free for at least 14 days. Please be aware that, if children are brought to school displaying symptoms, they will be isolated and sent home immediately and will not be allowed back to school for 14 days.

Parents should not rely on childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.

Parents should do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

This is a rapidly changing situation due to increasing amounts of staff absence and changes to the national management of the crisis. We cannot therefore guarantee how long the school will be able to remain open, but we will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible of a full school closure, and work with the Local Authority to identify alternative provision where possible.

All children have access to online learning through Showbie. Please encourage your children to stay in contact with each other and their teacher.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their support, messages and offers of help at this very difficult time. It has been heart-warming to see how much our school community has pulled together.

I must also extend my thanks to my amazing team of staff. Your resilience, smiles and determination that the children's lives continue as normal as possible has been overwhelming to see. Thank you! 😊

I wish you all good health and well-being for the coming weeks and I will keep you all in my thoughts.

My very best wishes

Demelza Bolton
Executive Headteacher

