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### **Coronavirus Update #3**

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

From next week, the primary role of St Margaret's Academy is changing from an educational provider to supporting the successful resolution of the Coronavirus challenge faced by the country. We will no longer be open to all children. Our role will be to provide care for children of workers who are critical to the country as well as for our most vulnerable. We will however endeavour to provide education along the way, via our home learning plans and in school for those attending.

Staff will be working on a rota system in school starting from Monday and continuing for the following four weeks through the 'Easter holiday' but not including weekends and bank holidays. In summary, we have plans in place to take us through to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the amazing staff here at school for showing continued dedication and care for your children. You would be amazed by some of the generous offers and stories I hear.

#### Information about the day for Key Worker and Vulnerable Children *Only*

The school will open and close at the normal times of 8.45am and 3.05pm. Please note however that the gates at the front and rear of the school will be closed. Children should be dropped off at the main entrance car park. Those in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will enter the building by the school office while those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be working in the Foundation Stage block. Staff will be on hand in the morning to help direct you and children.

Children don't need to wear school uniform. Instead they should wear comfortable clothing suitable for sports and running around. School dinners can be ordered as normal from a reduced option menu via School Gateway or your child can bring in a home-packed lunch. Please note there will be no Breakfast Club or After School Club until further notice. To facilitate the continuity of learning between home and school, please send your child in with their home learning exercise book.

Please note this service is only for those who are designated key workers and have already booked their child in via the school office. Please also be advised that it is only for those days when key workers are working. At other times, please keep your child at home.

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### Provision for Free School Meals

For those of you who have returned the slip saying you would like the weekly free school meal, these will be available for collection next Wednesday. We will be in touch on Monday to arrange a collection time.

### Latest Government Guidance

If anyone in your household has a high temperature or a new continuous cough (even a mild one), everyone in your house needs to self-isolate for 14 days and keep away from others. You mustn't go to the GP, hospital or pharmacy. Only call 111 if your symptoms get worse.

To help support the successful resolution to this challenge we face, please follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. Please don't rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
3. Please do everything you can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. Children should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

You can find further guidance for parents via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

### School Webpage Tips and Information

On our website you can find some helpful advice on Coronavirus. New today are some excellent menu tips for feeding our children and very clear government instructions on when and how to self-isolate. You can find my letters to you on there as well. Look under the Well-being in Action tab or [click here](#).

### Reminders

Department for Education helpline for parents - phone: 0800 046 8687,

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk), opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Mon to Fri)

Updates on COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

I know these are challenging times but hold on to the fact that it will all pass, good times will return and toilet roll will be back in the shops.

When I know more information about the future status of the school I will be in touch at the earliest opportunity. In the meantime, I wish you and all your families the very best.

Stay well,

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)

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