

St John's Church of England Primary School

'The JOY of the Lord is Your Strength' (Nehemiah 8:10)

Headteacher: Mr Phil Thomson



Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

The normal running of our school will end this Friday, 20th March.

We will re-open on Monday, 23rd March at the normal times but only for children who we need to ascertain are in the **Key Worker Group**. This was due to be identified to us by the Cabinet Office today but it has not come to us in time for this letter to be written.

We need this number to be as low as possible in order to keep staffing levels as high as we can for as long as possible. If you are **not** on the following list – school is highly likely to be **closed**. If you **are** on the list but can manage the situation without affecting vulnerable groups (e.g., it is recommended that children should not be looked after by grandparents) then you are welcome to keep the children at home. At the moment we are unsure what government plans are should one parent be a key worker and the other parents not on the list. Until we know otherwise, all children of key workers are welcome to attend St. John's. We are unable to accept siblings who do not attend St. John's however.

Key Worker Role

NHS Staff – any role

Police Staff – any role

Emergency Service Staff – any role

Children on a CP Plan (must attend school – you will know if this is your child)

Children on a CIN plan (you will know if this is your child)

Children with an EHCP (you will know if this is your child)

Teaching or School Support Staff working during the school day

Delivery Workers with no other form of suitable childcare

Supermarket Staff with no other form of suitable childcare

Care worker with no other form of suitable childcare

A number of parents have let us know that they are Key Workers today and, as such, their children are able to attend St. John's on Monday 23rd March and beyond. In the first instance, St. John's will be open until the scheduled Easter holiday (Friday 3rd April) with further information provided soon. It is likely that school will be open in some form over the Easter period to support families of Key Workers. Until Easter, all children will be educated on the St. John's site by staff from our school (staffing levels permitting). Beyond that, decisions will be made on staffing levels and numbers of children attending school.

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It is vital that you let us know in school if you work in one of the key worker roles above so we know who could possibly be in school on Monday and plan accordingly. Children of Key workers do not have to attend as we realise attendance may depend upon working patterns; however, they are welcome!

School will open at 8:40 am on Monday morning and will close at the usual times of 3:05 / 3:10 pm. Drop-off and pick-up will be via the school playground as usual. Breakfast and FAST club will not be running for the time being. We are able to provide school dinners in school next week should these be required – a dinner register will be completed each day as usual. School uniform would be recommended but is not compulsory as we realise that, as stresses increase on Key Worker roles, it may become difficult to keep on top of everything.

Children who Receive Free School Meals

We are currently awaiting clarification on this matter from the government should your child not attend school from Monday as part of the Key Worker group. It is highly likely that we are able to provide vouchers for families in receipt of Free Schools Meals but this is yet to be fully confirmed. For children who receive Free School Meals and who won't be in school, we will contact you in the coming days.

Self-Isolation

The same rules still apply for children who have been in self-isolation recently. We have recorded the start of any absence and children of parents on the Key Workers list are welcome back at St. John's after 14 days as long as all members of the family are clear of symptoms.

There will be no doubt more information and other issues which will need addressing but for now, it is vital that we know the identity of all Key Workers so that we can make plans for the future.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Kind Regards

Mr P Thomson