

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School  
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*'Happy are those who hear the word of  
God and keep it' Luke 11:28*

Friday 20th March 2020

### **Coronavirus – School Closures and Provision of places**

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As you will be aware a decision has been made to close schools but provision is to be made for those children for whom at least one parent falls into a 'Key Worker' category and/ or they fall into another category such as free school meals eligibility.

Government guidance states that ***"Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be"***. Our priority has to be the health and well being of all our pupils and staff and we therefore need to ensure we minimise the numbers of pupils in school to prevent the spread of infection. The decision to close schools was not one taken lightly but is a decision to ensure we prevent the spread of Coronavirus and ultimately save lives. These actions are to allow parents/ carers who's work is essential to the running of the country to continue.

**Anyone who is eligible for a school place has already been informed and understands they should only send children into school if they have NO alternative. The safest place for pupils to be is at home.**

We have to consider safe ratios within school and therefore we have a maximum number of pupils that we will accept. Careful consideration has been given to eligibility and we have had to prioritise pupils considering their needs as well as key worker responsibilities.

We must still emphasise that during this opening the existing advice must be followed. If your child or ANY member of the family demonstrates a temperature and/ or a persistent cough you must self isolate for 14 days. If during the school provision a child demonstrates symptoms you will be asked to collect them in the normal manner.

During this opening we will not be offering school learning above and beyond any learning that has been provided for pupils at home either due to self isolation and/or school closure so rest assured that we will continue to provide updates to our learning pages weekly for pupils both in and out of school.

### **What happens if my child is not at school ?**

Your child will continue to work through the learning packs which have already been provided as well as the many links on the 'Pupil' pages. There is also a 'Home- School Links' page with many additional resources. Staff will update learning regularly.

### **What happens if my Child is offered a place at school ?**

**This provision is offered for those pupils who fall into one of the categories and for families who have NO ALTERNATIVE care provision.**

- Children must be dropped off at 9.00 am and be collected at 3.15 pm. Provision by school can only be provided within these school hours.
- You must ensure we have up to date contact details within the school office.
- Your child can only be dropped off and collected by someone with parental responsibility or someone whom you have nominated and informed the school about.
- Children have to be dropped off by someone who is fit and well and not displaying any symptoms
- If you or any family member in the household become unwell you must immediately contact school and arrange for collection of your child. Similarly, if your child demonstrates symptoms whilst at school we will contact you for immediate collection.
- Social distancing must be enforced whilst your child is not in school
- You must inform school immediately if you no longer fall into a category and/ or are self isolating
- School is 'closed' and as such pupils may wear their own clothes, not uniform. These must be suitable for indoor and outdoor activity. We recommend putting all clothing in the washing machine as soon as pupils return home from school to minimise and control the spread of infection.
- We would ask that pupils wash hands before they come to school and pupils are invited to bring hand sanitizer gel for their own personal use.
- Pupils may not play on the yard either before or after school as we are practicing Social distancing
- Pupils may be brought to the hall no earlier than 08.55 am and must be collected from the hall at 3.15 promptly.

Please note that our provision will be very different from our normal programmes of education. As the Education secretary has shared pupils will not be given additional teaching or access to the National curriculum. The provision provided should be equal for pupils who are learning both at home and within school. **We will not be providing additional / extra learning for pupils in school so pupils will not be disadvantaged through self isolation.**

### **Will provision be provided during the Easter holidays?**

We cannot advise at this stage what provision will look like over the Easter holidays but we are working hard to make arrangements. We will share this with you in due course.

### **Will support continue to be provided at St. Mary's School or a School Hub ?**

All I can advise is, at present, currently we will be providing provision here at St. Mary's School. As you will appreciate these are unprecedented times and we will continue to monitor the viability of any such arrangements. A crucial factor will be the staffing ratios should it become necessary for staff to self isolate etc. The wellbeing of all staff and pupils is of paramount importance and as such ratios will be constantly reviewed.

If you have any further questions or queries you can contact us on the usual means and we will do our best to assist you. As you will appreciate it has taken a considerable amount of organisation to put such plans into place and we have done our absolute best to meet the needs of all our pupils and families. I would like to thank you all for your continued support and understanding during these difficult times. I would also like to thank our wonderful School team who have gone above and beyond to support our school. I am, as ever incredibly grateful for all they do.

Kind Regards

Mrs. A. Brogden  
Head Teacher

