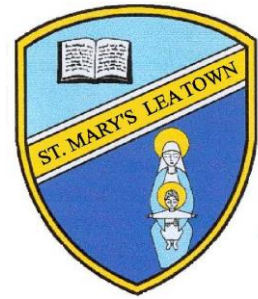


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*'Happy are those who hear the word of
God and keep it' Luke 11.28*

Friday 29th May 2020

School Openings and Provision of Key Workers/ vulnerable places

Dear Parents Carers

I hope you are all well and managing to stay safe. I would like to start by thanking you for your continued support. We continue to receive many positive emails and messages of support and we are incredibly grateful to be working in partnership with you in these challenging, unprecedented times. It is during such times that our unique community and family ethos is so very evident. The staff have pulled together, not having had a single day off, working through every holiday to ensure provision and provide home learning. Many families and community members have offered support in many ways too. I thank them for this and I am so very grateful.

I write to provide clarity in the light of many conflicting and changing media messages.

As per the letter issued on our website on 15th May 2020 **St. Mary's School remains closed** except to those pupils of Key Workers and/ or those deemed vulnerable. This decision was made after detailed Risk Assessments and was driven by ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all staff and pupils. You will no doubt be aware that Lancashire County Council have made the decision to advise all Lancashire schools not to open until further safety measures can be met. The position at St. Mary's is unlikely to change unless advice changes significantly. If any changes were to be made, which I do not foresee, we would as ever let you know.

As more families return to work the number of children requiring 'Key Worker' places is increasing. As you will appreciate I have to consider the number of places that can be provided safely and in line with Government guidance and as such St. Mary's can offer a maximum of ten daily places. These places will need to be booked week by week and I will require evidence of parent/ carers shift/ working pattern. This may be a screenshot of your rota or an email from your employer/ Line Manager. Only when this evidence has been shared may places be secured. Places will be offered on a first come first served basis. I thank you for your support with this and I have already starting receiving this information. This request is not to cause additional stress or challenge but is necessary based on the size of our

school and our staffing ratios and enables us to support those families who need the places whilst ensuring the safety and well-being of our staff and pupils.

When pupils arrive at school we ask that they stand on the coloured dots to maintain social distancing. Parents/ carers must drop off and collect and are not permitted to enter the school building. Pupils are asked to bring their home learning packs and a packed lunch. Pupils will be asked to wash their hands upon arrival and frequently throughout the day. Pupils may bring in their own hand gels for personal use should they wish. We will expect pupils to demonstrate the same high standards of behaviour we would always expect and to support us with adhering to social distancing. I thank you for supporting us with this.

It is our belief that the safest place for your child is at home and they should only attend school if you have no alternative childcare. This will ensure numbers remain small and safe and we can facilitate the provision. If one Parent/ Carer is working from home we would ask that they care for the pupil. I appreciate, as I know myself with two young children, that working from home and home schooling is extremely challenging. Home learning is provided for all school weeks on a weekly basis and uploaded to the 'Pupil' section on our school website. This work should be able to be accessed independently by pupils. The pupils who attend school complete the same online tasks within the school setting. They are not taught and they do not receive any additional learning. I wish to emphasise that all pupils whether home schooled or in school receive exactly the same.

We continue to be available to support you in many ways - provision of food hampers, wellbeing and learning support. Should you need any further advice please do not hesitate to contact us.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Stay Safe, Kind Regards.

Mrs. A. Brogden
Head Teacher