

St Mary's C.E. (A) School
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19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update 4 – school closure

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday for the foreseeable future.

All parents at this point are asked not to send their children into school on Monday until further notice. **This is due to the levels of staffing available.**

As advised by the government, we are liaising with the local authority to advise parents on the support offered to provide childcare for children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, and will be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to. Further arrangements will then be communicated once we have gathered an understanding of the level of care needed.

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. Some schools who have appropriate staffing levels will remain open for key worker children and children with needs. Unfortunately, St Mary's is unable to do this at this stage.

We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by the class teachers2parents emailing system and text messaging service. We will also be posting regular updates on our twitter feed and school website.

'We enjoy learning and achieving in a Christian environment'



What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

Home learning packs have already been uploaded to the school website that are linked to individual year groups. Please see yesterday's update on home learning.

Each week the teachers will be planning activities that will be communicated to you via the emailing system. It is expected that these will be uploaded to the website each Friday in preparation for the following week. Notification of these will also be sent via our teachers2parents emailing and messaging system.

If in the event staff are unable to do this due to being affected by the coronavirus, we will let you know and wherever possible provide alternative arrangements. Please consider that this may not always be possible and respect that as a school, all staff will do their very best to ensure you have direction with regards to home schooling your child.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns or have any questions, please don't hesitate to do so via the school email address. This will be continued to be monitored daily and questions and concerns will be collated and addressed to the whole community in due course.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use NHS 111 online.

Thank you again for your continued support and understanding, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

With very best wishes,

Mrs S M Hall
Head Teacher

