



St. Mary's Church of England VC Infant School

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URGENT NOTIFICATION

Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Further to the Government's announcement tonight, our School will close as of today to most pupils. We will only open for pupils tomorrow in the following groups listed by the Department for Education:

Vulnerable children and young people

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a Child In Need plan, a Child Protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers
 - others at the provider and local authority's discretion, including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections:

Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and

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social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arm's length bodies

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

We have a list of 'critical workers' who will require school provision, gathered from parents last term, and their children will be in school full time. We are only offering full time provision and no part time or staggered time.

For all 'critical workers' who have already made a request, a place for your child is confirmed subject to documentation being provided that shows your job falls under the criteria above **before** you send children into school.

Our provision has been planned on the information we have available to us at 9.30pm. Any further requests received will be dealt with from tomorrow morning and families will be contacted once we had an opportunity to plan further.

We currently have a huge number of pupils requiring places in school. To keep my staff and pupils safe I plead with parents to only send your child to school if you have absolutely no other option. Home is the safest place for your child. **Please email in urgently should you no longer wish to send your child into our key worker provision.**

Please send all communications regarding key worker provision (proof of status, requests for places) to covid@stmarysinfants.herts.sch.uk **ONLY**. This will ensure we are able to attend to this as efficiently as possible given the late notice from the Government.

Children of Key Worker or vulnerable status should come into school and be collected at the usual *staggered* times tomorrow using their usual school entrance/exit point. **Please do not turn up to school tomorrow if you did not complete the form last term, or have not provided proof of key worker status**, as you will be sent away until we can arrange further plans on the new information.

Teachers are preparing to deliver remote learning from tomorrow for those children who are not in school, so please ensure that you have access to Class Dojo. Our Remote learning policy is on our school website for you to view. If by any chance you are not signed up for Class Dojo, please email the school to ensure access to the resources via another route without fail tomorrow. If you do not have access to an electronic device and have notified us on this, we will be in touch as soon as we are able with regards to this.

It is absolutely essential that all pupils have access to daily learning sent by the class teacher. The Government has said that this will go on until at least February half term. Teachers will be providing feedback on work daily and will be in contact with parents should work not be received to ensure that parents are clear on the expectations and can be supported by staff with technology and, if necessary, teaching support. The education of our pupils is paramount to their life chances, and we thank you in advance for the new role that you will be taking on as parents/carers in the weeks ahead. We are very much here working with you and to support you and please urge you to contact us should you require support.

I do appreciate that this letter comes late in the day today, but as I have said, we can only respond to what is an ever-changing situation and information as it is released by the Government. We were very much prepared to open to all pupils tomorrow, however the Government have only released this new step at 8.00pm tonight.

Thank you, as always for your understanding and for your constant support,

Kind regards,

Miss V Edey

Miss Edey
Headteacher