

ST ANDREW'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers

20.03.20

School will close today to the majority of pupils for an unspecified period. This is an extremely difficult time for all of our community, for our Y6 pupils in particular and for those families who are currently self-isolating or having to remain distant from loved ones. I am sure that we will all eventually get through the crisis and hopefully all come back together soon before the end of the school year. In the meantime, a collective and consistent approach is required both in school and outside.

Documents issued by the Government (at midnight last night!) finally provided further information relating to pupils who can attend school if they or their parents fall into a specific category.

The advice provides information for parents of pupils in school who would fall into a more 'vulnerable' category and pupils of parents who are deemed 'key workers.'

The key message is the following:

"If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend."

Parents of pupils who fall into the 'vulnerable' category eg those with EHC plans or within the Child Protection system are also able to keep their children at home if this will be safer for them. For those parents currently doing this, please keep us informed and please contact us if you need any advice or further support.

Where any parents falls into the 'key worker' category – NHS Frontline, emergency services, education, food supply etc and are unable to keep their children safely at home with another parent or relative, we would ask that they contact us at school if not done so already and we will make arrangements to offer care in school for as long as school can remain open with enough staff available. Please provide us with details of shift patterns and the sessions you will require for your child at least for next week if not done so already.

Please do not assume we are able to meet these requests without us having confirmed this with you.

There is, at any point, a chance that school may have to close if not enough staff are well or their own children's school's have closed. This will be assessed on a day to day basis whilst staff and their children are still showing symptoms of COVID19. Should the school close, parents who are key workers are advised to contact the Local Authority who will provide them with details of another setting which is open.

Easter holiday provision

We are making every effort to remain open to children of key workers in the Easter holiday through our SOCKS provision and will issue further information relating to this in due course. The holiday club will not be therefore be open as usual for holiday care to other parents. We assume that the majority of parents will already have planned for this break in terms of childcare over the Easter break – so this

provision is only available to children of key workers who have no alternative provision whatsoever, not to pupils with EHC plans.

We have and are continuing to upload many resources for your children to access through online platforms and the school website. Please check this regularly and do not hesitate to contact us should you need.

The forthcoming few weeks are going to be exceptionally difficult in school from many perspectives and I am overwhelmed by the messages of support and 'solidarity' already received through emails and face to face. This is a mammoth administrative and organisational task but with children always at the heart. As a school community we wish our 'key workers' both within school and out in the community, the very best as they continue to battle the virus on our behalf. We are very proud of you!

Yours sincerely



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dyslexia aware school

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