

St Mary's RC Primary School

'Growing, loving and learning in the arms of Mary'



Meadowside
Sunderland
SR2 7QN
Telephone 0191 5228787
Headteacher Mr M. Clephane

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Further to my letter yesterday, please find below the latest information and guidance received from the Government regarding staying safe during this critical time, the key principles to be followed and a list of the critical sectors.

At the end of this information a form is available for completion to indicate whether you will need to access St Mary's RC Primary School, Key Worker/Crucial care arrangements. If applicable, please return the form by via e-mail to info@smrc.school or by hand on Monday 23rd March 2020.

We are expecting most children to stay at home and we will endeavour to keep in touch with parents and pupils on a regular basis via texts, website, Ourschools app etc.

Thank you for your co-operation during these very difficult times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Clephane'.

M. Clephane, Headteacher.

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#).

And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. 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.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

We know that schools will also want to support other children facing social difficulties and we will support head teachers to do so.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
- 2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.**
- 3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.**
- 4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.**
- 5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.**

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

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

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the 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, and 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 COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms 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 COVID-19 pandemic), 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

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems 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 COVID-19 response, as well as 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 and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

If your school is closed then please [contact your local authority](#), who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend.

PLEASE complete this form if applicable and return to school via e-mail info@smrc.school or by hand by on Monday 23rd March 2020 Thank you

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed detailed above, and you cannot keep your child(ren) safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision and if you can please let us know by completing & returning the attached form which key worker service category you work for and to confirm that as your child(ren) cannot be safely looked after at home, you intend for your child(ren) to be looked after in school during the school day.

Please be aware that although school will do everything possible to stay open, teachers, teaching support and education staff also need stay safe and it may be that school has to function with a skeleton staff and/or volunteer helpers

Name of child..... Year Group

Name of parent(s).....

Please tick which critical sector category you work in and whether childcare in school is needed on the days or times you are in work and as you cannot keep your child safe at home. School will be flexible to suit key worker working arrangements therefore if possible, can you please give some indication below on which days and times you will be working to ensure that your child(ren) are only in school on these days/times.

- Health and social care**
- Education and childcare**
- Key public services**
- Local and national government**
- Food and other necessary goods**
- Public safety and national security**
- Transport**
- Utilities, communication and financial services**

Main School 9.00am to 3.30pm – Entrance to school will be via Main school Office

MON AM	MON PM	TUES AM	TUES PM	WED AM	WED PM	THURS AM	THURS PM	FRI AM	FRI PM

Breakfast Club 8.00am to 9.00am - £2 charge per day

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Please note as the school kitchen will be closed till further notice, there will be no breakfast provided or lunchtime school meals therefore children will need a packed lunch and drinks.