



**Saint Edmund's and Saint Thomas'
Catholic Primary School**
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20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

CORONA VIRUS UPDATE 5

If it is **at all possible** for children to be at home, then they should be.
Gov.UK

Today you will be able to collect any pupil work books which were not collected yesterday from the foyer for your child to record work. Staff are now in the process of preparing a distance learning pack for all children through the website. You will receive a pupil log on password. Staff will update these homework areas when they are not required to be in school and managing other pupil groups.

School Closure / Partial School Closure

Since the school closure announcement on Wednesday 18th March and my letter to you yesterday morning which sought to collate key worker information, schools have been left with many questions in relation to how to implement partial closure. Unfortunately, yesterday schools did **not** receive a definitive list of key workers from the government; ie workers (whose professional roles will be **crucial** in the management and response to this crisis). Today we now have a list so we can apply confirmation of a place for your child if you qualify **REMEMBER WHY THE DECISION TO CLOSE SCHOOLS HAS BEEN TAKEN AND THE GOVERNMENT SAYS "If it is at all possible for children to be at home then they should be. " Guidance for Schools Colleges...19/03/20**

Please note these principles in light of school closure

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.

Pupils who will qualify for school sessions over the coming weeks

1 Children whose parents are key workers. 2. Children who have an Education Health Care Plan. 3.Children who have social care arrangements. 4.Any pupil for whom the school may have child protection concerns. Children who attend school from next week will be vertically grouped (potentially wider age range classes) depending on the age group ranges of those attending. The National Curriculum will be suspended. A timetable will take account of how we structure new class groups

Free School Meals Children

The Local authority are working with schools to attempt to establish a viable midday meal operation for children on free school meals. This might mean that packed lunches will be available for collection from the school's reception foyer or a voucher system may be implemented. We hope to have confirmation later today.

We have published the list of key worker information below and expect you to confirm that you require a place if you qualify by completing the slip on yesterday's letter or emailing the office directly. Naturally you must include employer information

Yours sincerely,



Kieran A Loftus Headteacher

Key Worker Guidance

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.