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"With Jesus as our guide; we love, live and learn together."

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parents

### SCHOOL PROVISION UPDATE 20.03.20

I am now writing to confirm that from **3.15pm** on **Friday 20th March** school will be closed to the majority of pupils.

If a child is **VULNERABLE** or has a parent who is a **CRITICAL WORKER**, then a school place **WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THEM** from **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**.

Please note the government's guidance is that: 'if it is at all possible for children to be at home, even if they fall into one of these groups, then they should be'.

The government has asked schools to **remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend**.

If you / your family is currently self-isolating then please observe the full **ISOLATION PERIOD** guidance and **STAY IN YOUR HOUSE**.

**DO NOT BRING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL** on Monday if your child has not been identified as vulnerable (we will have contacted you) or you have not emailed school to identify as a Critical Worker.

### **STAY AT HOME IF YOU HAVE CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS:**

Please remember to still stay at home if you have either:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

Please read the full 'stay at home' guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDANCE:**

Please remember to adhere to social distancing guidance to reduce the social interaction between people and help reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

1. Avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). These symptoms include high temperature and/or new and continuous cough
2. Avoid non-essential use of public transport, varying your travel times to avoid rush hour, when possible
3. Work from home, where possible.
4. Avoid large gatherings, and gatherings in smaller public spaces such as pubs, cinemas, restaurants, theatres, bars, clubs
5. Avoid gatherings with friends and family. Keep in touch using remote technology such as phone, internet, and social media
6. Use telephone or online services to contact your GP or other essential services

## **VULNERABLE PUPILS AND CHILDREN OF CRITICAL WORKERS:**

If a child has been identified as vulnerable by school or has a parent who is a critical worker, then a school place **will be available** for them from **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**.

This is an **offer** to parents and carers and there is **no requirement** for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

Until further notice, provision will be made for all of our school children with parents who have emailed school this morning to identify themselves as a Critical Worker.

This offer may be withdrawn at short notice to all pupils if **staffing ratios** or **health and safety requirements** drop below a level that is safe. If this happens then we will try to make other arrangements such as other local schools providing a place for your child.

Please make sure that your child wears their usual **school uniform** when coming to school.

## **HELPING HANDS:**

Our pre- and after- school provision provided by Helping Hands will continue to operate as normal on the school premises from **7.30am - 9.00am** and **3.15 – 5.45pm**.

Please see the attached booking forms (including Easter holiday playscheme) and contact Helping Hands directly if you wish to book this provision (contact details can be found in the booking form).

## **FOR CHILDREN COMING IN TO SCHOOL AS OF MONDAY 23RD MARCH 2020, THE FOLLOWING MEASURES / PRECAUTIONS MUST BE TAKEN:**

- Please try to wash your child's school uniform daily if possible – we recommend putting clothes straight into the washing machine as soon as you get home after school to try to minimise and control the spread of infection.
- Up to date emergency contact details for family members must be available within school should your child become poorly or exhibit symptoms of contracting coronavirus.
- Your child must be brought to school premises (and collected) by somebody who either has

parental responsibility or has been nominated by yourselves (if there is a change to any usual arrangements then please let us know in advance by informing the school office) as long as you are all fit and well and not showing symptoms of coronavirus.

- If you become unwell with coronavirus symptoms, you must **immediately contact school** and arrange for immediate collection of your child.
- If staff or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature then they will be sent home.
- Social distancing must be enforced whilst your child is not in school if we are to prevent / minimise the spread of infection. We cannot emphasise this enough. This is to keep our staff safe.
- School must be informed if you no longer fall within the critical worker list or you have been asked to self-isolate.
- Thorough hand washing should place at home just before leaving the house.
- The school gate will open as usual at **8.45am** and all children should be in school by **8.55am**.

### **LUNCHTIME MEAL ARRANGEMENTS:**

Our school kitchen will provide sandwich packs for **ALL PUPILS** who are continuing to attend school **FREE OF CHARGE**.

The sandwich packs will contain the following:

- Sandwich (cheese, ham or tuna)
- Piece of fruit
- Yoghurt or muffin
- Bottle of water

We will take a 'sandwich register' every morning in school to confirm the number of pupils who require a sandwich pack. You are obviously welcome to send your child into a school with their own lunch if this is your preference.

If for any reason our school kitchen cannot operate, parents will be contacted as early as possible so that they are aware of this.

### **FREE SCHOOL MEAL PUPILS WHO WILL NOT BE ATTENDING SCHOOL FROM MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH:**

If your child is **currently eligible for free school meals** (this is not the same as pupil premium children) then please email the **school office** today using the subject heading **MEAL DEAL** and we will prepare a sandwich pack for your child to collect from the main school entrance at 11.00am everyday starting from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

We will operate social distancing measures at the collection point.

If you are not sure if your child is **currently eligible for free school meals** then please phone or email the school office. If you feel that your family **may be eligible for** free school meals and you are not currently registered as such with the school, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

This offer does not automatically include pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who currently receive a free school meal as this is classed as Universal Free School Meals and is not connected to benefit claimants.

### **PUPILS WHO ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL:**

- Pupils who are not attending school have already been given homework packs or have had them posted to them
- Weekly homework will be uploaded to the school website for each class by 9.00am every Monday (term time only)
- **N.B. Please do not email the school office with homework queries – we do not have the capacity to respond to these**
- Updated information will be placed on our website for the duration of this unprecedented period – please check this regularly
- Emails / weekly newsletter will be continue to be sent to parents
- Our school phone lines will be open from **8.30am-3.30pm**, however please be aware that we are dealing with staff shortages and may not be able to deal with your query immediately.
- Some courtesy welfare calls will be made from school to support pupils and their wellbeing

All statutory primary school tests (Year 2 and Year 6 SATs, Year 4 Tables testing, Year 1 Phonics testing) have all been cancelled at this time.

This is an unprecedented and stressful time for us all and at the time of writing I have no indication as to how long this situation is going to continue for.

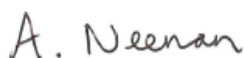
Please be assured that we will be doing our very best to adhere to government guidelines and help to meet the needs of our families during this extremely difficult time. If there is anything that we can do as a school to support our families then we will be doing it – please get in touch if there is anything that you think our school or school community can help anyone with.

We will get through this together by looking after everyone! I hope to see you all again very soon!

I will remember you all in my prayers. Please do remember everyone in your prayers.

Thank you for your patience and support.

Yours sincerely



Mr A. G. Neenan

Headteacher