



St Joseph's R.C. Primary School
Coast Road, Blackhall, Hartlepool, TS27 4HE

Tel/Fax: 0191 586 4308

Head Teacher: Mrs L Ashton

Chair of Governors: Mr P Francis



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are now all aware, as from today at 3.15pm, school is now closed to all children who do not fall into the category of having parents/carers who are key workers. In line with Government guidance, we have planned that this will be the situation until further notice, and we will keep you updated with new information as we receive it. Please keep a close eye on our school website, under the parent section, where you will find ongoing information.

The new guidance, published last night by the Government, listed all individuals who are now classed as key workers. Please check this updated documentation which can be found on our website and if you now feel that you meet this criteria, and haven't already informed us that you require childcare provision, please contact school on as soon as possible. However, we must emphasise that the government guidance also states that "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."

Learning packs will be sent home with your child tonight. For children currently not in school, packs are available to be collected from the school office tonight between 3.15-4.15pm and on Monday between 9am-3pm. The packs that will children will receive will contain work for the next 2 weeks and we will be in touch with you before Easter to update you on how to access work beyond this time.

For children of key workers who will be coming in to school as from Monday 23rd March, **the following measures/precautions must be taken:**

- Own clothes to be worn which are fresh on- we recommend putting clothes straight in the washing machine once returning home from school to minimise and control the spread of infection.
- Up to date contact details for family members must be available within school and emergency contact details, should your child become poorly/exhibit symptoms of contracting Coronavirus.
- We must register your child in and out of the premises by someone who has parental responsibility, as long as you are all fit and well and showing not showing symptoms of Coronavirus.
- If you become unwell with Coronavirus symptoms, you must **immediately** contact school and arrange for collection of your child.

- Social distancing must be enforced whilst your child is not in school if we are to prevent/minimise the spread of infection.
- Thorough hand-washing to take place just before leaving the home.
- These children can access school at **8am** for breakfast club and can remain in school until closing at **3.15pm**. Please note that if these times change following any Government updates parents will be informed. Breakfast club can be accessed via the main door and current arrangements for vehicles to pick up and drop off remain the same.

I am very aware that some children and families will find this situation very worrying, and in order to help support you to ease these worries, please find below links which may be useful around wellbeing.

Anna Freud: Self-Care and Coping Strategies

<https://www.annafreud.org/selfcare/>

BBC: How to protect your mental health

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51873799>

CBBC: Video and Questions

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51861089>

ChildMind: Talking to Children

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

ELSA: Coronavirus Story for Children

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/coronavirus-story-for-children/>

National Association of School Psychologists: Parent Resources

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

Young Minds: Feeling Anxious about Coronavirus

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus>

All of our school family and community are extremely important to us and you will be in our thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

Mrs Ashton

Headteacher