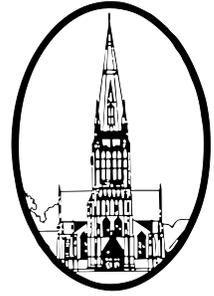


St. Mary's C. of E. Primary School
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Headteacher: Jane O'Brien



***“St Mary’s.... feeding the mind,
body and spirit so we can be the
best we can be.”***

2nd January 2021

Parent Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I really did not think I would be writing to you over the holidays but, in the light of Gavin Williamson's address to parliament this week, followed by his U turn yesterday to close schools including St Mary's, I just wanted to make contact, give you some clarity and update you.

- St Mary's **will not** be opening for all children on Tuesday 5th January as previously planned
- Due to the very short notice given for some schools to close (two days over the weekend), St Mary's will be taking Tuesday 5th January as an additional inset day to allow time for planning and risk assessments.
- St Mary's **will be** opening school for critical workers and vulnerable children on Wednesday 6th January
- All other children will be taught remotely

How long will this last?

These measures will be in place until at least 18th January 2021. The government will review the situation before this date.

Who counts as vulnerable children and the children of critical workers?

Critical workers are defined by the government as 'Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response including those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors' The full list of critical workers is included at the end of this letter.

Vulnerable children include those who:

- have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan



• have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services). This might include families living in temporary accommodation or where there is serious illness or mental ill health.

What will children at home and at school learn?

We will be contacting you on Monday with more details.

What do I need to do in the next day or two?

1. Remember that Monday, 4th January and Tuesday 5th January are INSET Days.
2. Wait for more information to be sent out to parents on Monday.
3. Let us know if:

a. Your circumstances have changed since our last survey and you do not have an Internet accessible device at home for your child to access remote learning.

We need to know this because:

i. We have a small number of devices that we can lend to families.
ii. If necessary, we can provide hard copies of worksheets for collection from school.
A parent's smartphone isn't ideal for children to access remote learning. If this is all you have, then please consider yourself as having no internet accessible device and we will do our best to help.

b. You consider your child/ren to be eligible for a critical worker or vulnerable child's place and would like to register them to attend school. Please email bmckelvey@st-marys.hackney.sch.uk stating:

- i. Name/s and class/es of children needing to attend in person
 - ii. Why your child/ren needs a critical worker place
 - iii. If known: what pattern of attendance your child will need (i.e. shift patterns)
- Be prepared to be asked for evidence of critical worker status, even if you provided it earlier in the year.

If you are entitled to FSM we will be in contact as soon as we receive further information as to whether vouchers will be distributed to parents as previously.

I do apologise for interrupting your holiday, but I thought you would prefer to have an idea about what will be happening next week.

Please rest assured that I will send out further information as and when I have it.

Happy New Year and I hope that you and your family are all well and keeping safe.

Kind regards,



Jane O'Brien
Headteacher

Critical Workers

Critical workers are defined by the government as 'Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response:

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:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (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
- 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)
- 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 coronavirus (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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- 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
- waste disposal sectors

