



ST ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers

The government advice to parents is to avoid gathering in large groups to contain the spread of the virus. They have closed schools to try and help with this. Please consider these key principles from the government.

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.*

Please for your own families' health and well-being consider whether sending them to school is the best course of action. Only send them in if it is your **ONLY** alternative. Please understand that this is not for us to have fewer children - **this is a very serious public health crisis!**

We will be open on Monday for the key workers – you can decide if you fall into that category. We will not be requiring proof of this as we will trust that you are sending them to school because you have no other option. No need to ask me if you fall into that bracket.

Whilst we are totally 100% wanting to support you, we will have to manage staff absence during this time and ensure we have staff well enough to be safe to offer childcare. This may get harder over the longer period but we will keep you up dated at all times.

We will provide the best care we can for you children but please be aware there will be no formal teaching and no parent liaison as such unless urgent and appropriate to do so. Please don't expect academic updates or make unnecessary requests on teachers.

At this point in the situation, we are intending to close as usual for the Easter holidays at 1:15 on April 3rd to **ALL** pupils for a precautionary deep clean and to give the staff a break.

I would like to offer a huge thank you to the staff at St Anthony's who continue to support me unflinchingly in the decision making for the best for our school. Their dedication to come to school and support in a very stressful and worrying time is a credit to them. They work for the best interests of our school community.



Details of how we will operate over the next few weeks providing a service for you and your children are as follows:

- Bring your child to school as usual on Monday if you have chosen to do so. 8:55 to 3:15.
- They will be with a member of staff but not necessarily their own class teacher.
- If we think they are ill, we will isolate them immediately and ask you to pick them up asap. You will then need to self-isolate for 14 days. Refer to the home learning info letter if this happens.
- Pupils to wear uniform (this is for ease) and have their PE kits in school and other items if they wish for messy/outdoor play.
- Pupils can bring two snacks and water for during the day.
- There will be a lunchtime service and I encourage you to take this option for your own convenience at this time. (We can provide for fussy eaters!) Please see separate information on school meals.
- Please inform school, via the office as usual, if you are not going to attend or you have had to self-isolate as a family. (Safeguarding policies and procedures will continue)
- All before and after school activities in school that are run by staff are now cancelled
- Parents to **NOT** enter the building and respect that staff want to keep to social distancing as well.

Key workers

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.

We are grateful for the work of teachers and workers in educational settings for continuing to provide for the children of the other critical workers of our country. It is an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease.

Keep safe and well and if we don't see you on Monday then I want you to know that I will pray for you all and will be looking forward to you and your child/ren returning to our school, making it the happy place it is, in the near future.

Kindest regards

Mrs Rachel M Ballard

