



20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for the support you have shown during this crisis and the many lovely messages received. Following on from my letter yesterday outlining details of the school closure, I am now able to confirm details with regard to children who will be able to come into school.

We will be opening school from Monday, 23rd March but only for identified pupils. This provision will only be available for vulnerable children with Education Health and Care Plans and the children of “key workers”.

Guidance for schools remaining open from Monday was posted in the early hours this morning (see following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?fbclid=IwAR0bw2mh1vPBfncuKKMfNm0eexgk0q65mvG-esGQBavtsVAe_bclmlBIF9)

The guidance is very clear, **“If children can stay safely at home, they should.”**

I would suggest that all parents should keep their children at home if possible to minimise the risk of contracting the virus. Outside of school, parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way that can continue to spread the virus.

I would stress that it is essential that we keep numbers as low as possible to minimise the spread of infection. If you are, a “key worker” but have a partner or other relative in your home who can care for your children, please keep your children at home.

All staff will continue to work either in school or from home if they can. Many staff will have to self-isolate due to infection in the household or underlying health conditions. However, we have put together a programme to support children coming into school. Care for the identified children will be during normal school hours, 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. for infants and 9.00 a.m. until 3.15 p.m. for juniors. The provision will be based in the junior school.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in the critical sectors, our school staff will make every effort to provide childcare whilst you are at work. We are trying to keep our extended hours from 7:30 am to 6.00 pm to enable you to keep the country operating.

It maybe that we cannot staff our breakfast club and the after school club as well as the main part of the day. I will let you know as soon as possible, if we are able to offer this provision. If we are able to offer it, the provision will start from Wednesday, 25th March 2020.

I would ask that you please carefully consider taking up any of the provision we are offering, to allow us to support those keyworkers who are on the frontline. We are looking into the possibility of offering a holiday club over Easter for those allocated, as keyworkers should you need it, but I cannot confirm this yet.

We would stress however, that government advice on distancing suggests that children are safest at home. If you or anyone in your family has symptoms, you will need to self- isolate and therefore your child cannot attend school.

We are totally dependent on our school staff being well to be in school. If we are unable to run the school with the required number of staff needed to ensure the safety of all the children and adults in our care, we will not be able to offer this support. In the event of this happening, we will need to redirect children to Hubs at neighbouring schools.

In summary, the scientific guidance is clear the fewer children we have in school each day the greater chance we have of limiting the chance of the virus spreading. The more children we have in school, the less likely we will be able to stay open for the entire duration of this crisis.

I want to assure you all that whilst the building may be closed, our school community will continue with staff working from home and keeping in touch with children through setting daily learning tasks.

Go to <http://www.stjosephsfederation.co.uk/year-groups/> then select your year group. At the top of the page will be a blue button link to the 'Learning at Home' page. Here you will find letters explaining things on the top two buttons. Links to online resources are displayed on the burgundy buttons and links to worksheets/activities at the bottom of the page in yellow. Your children all have their logins for the websites we subscribe to, in their homework/reading record books. Every Friday new activities will be uploaded onto these pages. New activities will show at the top of the list.

If there are any problems, please email via the enquiry form on the school website. Please briefly outline the issue and we will respond as soon as possible. The page has been activated, so please access it.

I will keep you informed regarding the school closure situation and am available should you need any further guidance and support for you and your family. I will be emailing you a weekly newsletter to keep you continually updated. You can contact me on head@st-josephs-inf.croydon.sch.uk

Thank you for your support and I ask that you continue to keep everyone in and outside our school community in your prayers and thoughts. Please ensure that you and your family are taking every possible precaution to remain safe.

Best wishes to you and your families.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Fernandes
Headteacher

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