



20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

Daily Coronavirus Update

I would like to thank you for your understanding and patience over the last week. These are extremely uncertain times that collectively we are going through. I am sorry that, at times, I have not been able to provide more information to some of the many questions which you have had and some still have, simply because the information is not yet available. Please rest assured that I will update all parents and carers as regularly and as quickly as possible when new information and its impact on our community and your children is available.

Overnight new information has been published by the government on which pupils are able to access school. This guidance sets out the expectations of parents/carers and schools. Links to this information are [here](#) and on our website. The guidance states that "**...the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**"

The key principles stated in the guidance are:

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.

Please check the definitive list of **critical workers** as published on the government website and complete the survey on our school website if you feel you fit into any of the categories and require childcare. We will contact those to look at eligibility.

Vulnerable children are defined as "children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans." We **expect** to see pupils who fit into this category and will continue to communicate with all parents/carers to ensure that these children are looked after. We have already had detailed discussions yesterday with some parents/carers of **vulnerable students**. Those parents/carers **do not need** to contact us again unless you wish to change your mind about accessing our provision.

For pupils who are **in receipt of a free school meal**, we have purchased vouchers. **These have been posted out today to the relevant families.** Current advice from the government is that they are

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



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looking at implementing a nationwide scheme for this. For those families that this applies to, we will be in communication with you as the information becomes available to us.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that the pupils and staff in school have been fabulous this week, in quite remarkable circumstances. They have been a credit to the school community and rightly deserve much praise for their perseverance and efforts. To be able to remain fully open and functional this week is testament to the wonderful and generous spirit at our fantastic school.

Please ensure that your child keeps a healthy mind and body. I trust you are now aware of how they can keep learning using resources from school – whether it be online or on paper. I have included in this pack a help guide for parents, should you need to see the work your child is being asked to complete online. There is a plethora of resources available on the Internet for your child to access and I have attached some additional resources to this letter just in case they get bored! If more paper copies are needed, please just ring school and we will organise some to be sent out to you. School will remain open, so never hesitate to phone or email if there are any queries. Our email address is info@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk

I wish you all the very best over the coming weeks. Happy Easter when it arrives, and God bless.

Kind regards

N Oddie

Mrs Nicola Oddie
Headteacher

Weblinks

Latest government information re: school closure

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Latest government information re: key workers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Attached:

Parent Help Guide to INSIGHT
Additional Web learning resources