



**Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington, Lancashire, WN6 9RN**

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Dear all, so here we are again. Don't think we're back at square one.... We're not.... It's just a final push, one more mile, then we're home. The cavalry is on its way. Just wait for that jab in the arm! In the meantime...

May I wish you all the very best during this rather tricky time. May I also thank and give all of my best wishes to those clinical staff working frontline in the NHS who, well, must be having it pretty tricky at the moment. May I also wish all the very best to all who are working in the emergency services, scientists, prison services, armed forces, supermarkets, to be honest all who are doing their crucial bit, and rallying around for the common good.

May I just also remind you that the virus itself is not the main threat, especially to those who are normally fit and well... the main threat is the pace of spreadage, and an overwhelming of our NHS, and that is why action is being taken: to limit mass gatherings, to increase social distancing, with schools closing not for kid or staff safety but to break the "vector of transmission" to quote our esteemed PM!

At and Mossy Lea and St George's I, indeed all the squad, are proud to be doing our bit. In times of trouble what would people if we shut down, closed down and put our head in the sand. That's not my style. It's not our style. It's our role, and I promise you we will once again perform our role to the best of our ability! There are many differences between this shut down, and the last one, but my over arching motto remains the same. IF IT WORKS FOR YOU, IT WORKS FOR ME. Do not feel disadvantaged if your child can't come to school – that is indeed what should be happening, unless school attendance is essential.

This time education will continue, of a fashion, and teachers will be in contact today with their learning menus. But don't worry if you can't attend the sessions – all gaps will be addressed. No child will be disadvantaged. Again, do not feel disadvantaged if your child isn't in school, they're missing out on my company, but that's all! Staff will generally be zooming a Maths, English and a Phonics (Yr R and 1 Only) session each day with accompanied activities. Staff will also be linking activities to Seesaw in the afternoon. Although these lessons are learning sessions, gaps will be plugged upon return. Remember.... No pressure.... If you do it, and want to do it, do it. If you can't, or don't want to don't.

## ZOOM PROTOCOL. HELP US TO HELP YOU

### **Respect to teachers**

As teachers once again modify their lessons so that they fit zoom, may I remind you that there will be a lot of nerves around - it difficult to explain the tremendous pressure staff feel zooming into your homes. Please, I beg, should it go wrong, should mistakes be made be kind. Don't become keyboard warriors. Don't be critical. Be kind. I have to say, and please indulge me....in the unlikely event that I see any negative comments about a teacher on line, then they will immediately cease zooming out. Not because I'm precious, but I am protective of them, and I'm protective of the relationship between teacher, parent and child. So please, even though there is now more scope to undermine the relationship, please don't. Do share your negative thoughts with me— you can shout, scream whatever at me.... but not the staff who are doing their very very best, and going so far beyond expectations in zooming into your homes.

### **Kids remember.... This is a lesson.**

#### Code of Conduct for Zoom Lessons

Remember it is a lesson you're in school, albeit virtually, normal school rules apply!

- Make sure you are on time for scheduled lessons if you are joining them. Remember, if it works for you, it works for us.
- Do your best to be prepared to learn, it is a lesson. Have everything you need with you and you are somewhere you are able to concentrate.
- Do not unmute yourself unless your teacher tells you to.
- Make sure you are appropriately addressed for a lesson.
- No food, no lozzing, no extravagant backgrounds.
- Remember that we are all trying to learn. Do not try to distract anyone else by waving, making silly faces etc.
- Do not write on the Zoom whiteboard, unless your teacher asks you to do so.

### **Am I a key worker?**

For children who have a parent/ legal guardian living in the child's main household and are a critical worker as defined following this link, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> and having considered the governments stay at home instruction, if you can please email [bursar@stgeorges.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@stgeorges.lancs.sch.uk), quoting why you think you are a critical worker, and also the days you require.

**Even if your work is critical to the COVID-19 response many parents working in these sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

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 living in the child's main household, who is a critical worker, then provision may be available for them.

Additionally, 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.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed above, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for provision:

Remember, even if you fall into the category of being a "critical worker" that doesn't mean you SHOULD send your kid to school. It just means that you CAN if you NEED to. If one parent is able to be at home then your child should be kept at home to limit the risk of infection to the other children and to staff.

At the moment we can staff things by using St. George's, but it is probable our staffing capacity will be severely reduced.

**Furthermore if you, or your child develops a continuous cough OR a fever (temperature above 37.8) then you should follow all government guidance and self isolate.**

The rationale behind school closure is to reduce the likelihood of spread of COVID-19, and to give us capacity to support those families who need us as we become ill. Every effort should be made to self isolate. The critical care service is to ensure that front line services in our battle against COV-19 can continue and we support the amazing work of our NHS staff. There will be some parents who genuinely NEED this child care service and we are proud to do our bit to support those parents who are helping in our national effort against this virus.

It's right and proper that as many precautions are taken as possible; plan for the worst – hope for the best. With this in mind, we will continue to use the chalet as an isolation room. If children begin to feel unwell in school they will be separated from the other children and their parents called to collect them immediately.

School (St. George's) will be open from **8.20am, until 3.30pm, with chargeable wrap around being in place until 5.30pm** for as long as we can staff it. Breakfast club is not available, although we can slap some toast in if needed! The entry and exit point is through the main door – wear a mask please, and only 1 person in the reception area at a time.

That said, it's not school as we know it.... It's a drop-off service for your shift patterns. Children can be dropped off and collected at times to suit your work rota. Please enter through the front door, signing in and out. Whilst in school, your children will access the zoom sessions that teachers are offering from their homes.

For eligible children, Late Stay will be open as normal from 3.30pm until 5.30pm – again, this is a chargeable service (£5.00 for the first hour until 4:30pm and £7.00 for the full session until 5:30pm), open for as long as we can staff it. The children will be leaving through the front door and signing out using the front office system. (They will have already signed in). To book your child into late stay, please use the normal booking system.

Normal health/sickness rules apply so if your child is unwell please do not send them into school but if they were due to attend please let us know that they are going to be absent. To make children recognisable as “at school” can children wear their school t shirts/ jumpers, but shorts and trainers etc are fine! Just like we would on a school trip.

**All offers of a place will be confirmed via e-mail.**

### **For children who are staying at home**

May I wish you all the very best as you home school, and I hope to see you for your lessons on zoom. Don't feel obliged to complete anything that we have sent home – that's not what it is for. By no means is the work compulsory. It can't be. Just do your best. If you're struggling to find work, and want some, then either Class Dojo Antonella, or use the dedicated email address [head@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk)

### **For all children and parents**

Class Dojo messaging system will remain active..... however, if you require general help and support we have a dedicated email address set up that will be monitored daily. This is for any general home school related issued that you may have [worry@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:worry@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk)

This email will be monitored during school opening hours. It's useful for technical issues, or if you require to borrow an iPad to make home learning easier. Make sure you keep up-to-date with things... either follow us on Facebook, or simply track the chronology on the website. If your child is entitled to free school meals (not just an infant child on the universally free meals) then Sharon will email you your vouchers for both schools.

If you need any more help foodwise, we do have packs in schools – just contact Sharon, or myself and we will sort it. No problem.

I know in our actions we will have upset, inconvenienced and maybe even angered some of you; if you fall into this category I most humbly apologise. We have tried to act fairly swiftly and consistently – indeed we always do.

May I conclude by apologising for any disappointment or additional difficulty our decision making process has caused, and may I thank you all for your magnificent support you always afford us. School closure is not what we wanted – it what the country needs.

May I wish you every happiness, and all the very best, and, like us all, I look forward desperately to things returning to normal, and seeing you all very soon.

Take care,

Andy

