



St. Nicholas C of E Primary School

School Road, Marton Moss, Blackpool, FY4 5DS



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20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Re: INDEFINITE, FORCED SCHOOL CLOSURE

Next week, St. Nicholas stops operating as a school and we will become a 'last-resort, emergency childcare' facility. We will not be providing an education, just childcare and we will operate between 9.00am and 3.30pm.

It is NOT compulsory for children to attend.

Breakfast and after school club will operate for next week and we will re-assess the situation towards the end of the week.

As a country, we **all** need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

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 fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the **lower the risk** that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a **limited** number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose **parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.**

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be - our care provision is an absolute last resort.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they **MUST** be.
2. Parents should 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.
3. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a **critical** worker, then school provision will be available for them.
4. 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.**

Please remember, the whole point of the enforced closure, is to reduce the potential spread of the coronavirus, we should not be used for convenience. We will be very strict on this.

Where one parent is not a key worker, please endeavour to make your own arrangements to keep your child safely at home.

If you are working from home, your child **MUST** stay with you.

If you feel you meet the criteria below and feel it is absolutely necessary to take up a childcare place, then please complete the new form which will be sent on Parentapp at lunchtime today **MUST be completed by 3pm today in order for us to cater appropriately as far as staffing levels for next week.**

We will require proof of your 'key worker' status, such as a work identification pass / work email / letter from employer which states your job title.

The arrangements for the childcare will be as follows:

- **The familiar isolation rules apply (14 days isolation if someone in the household develops symptoms)**
- Children brought to school at 9.00am to the playground, to enter the school as usual. They should be collected at 3.30pm from the playground as usual.
- If you require Breakfast and After School Club, hours are as normal next week but may be subject to change.
- School uniform is not required - own clothes to be worn which are **fresh on - clothes should be put straight in the washing machine once returning home from school to minimise and control the spread of infection**
- Children will wash their hands on arrival.
- They will be given a lunch in school.
- **Up-to-date contact details for family members must be available within school and emergency contact details should your child become poorly/exhibit symptoms of contracting coronavirus.**
- We must register your child in and out of the premises by somebody who either has parental responsibility or has been nominated by yourselves (they must be over 16), as long as you are all fit and well and not showing symptoms of coronavirus.
- **If you become unwell with coronavirus symptoms, you must immediately contact school and arrange for collection of your child.**
- Social distancing **must** be enforced whilst your child is not in school if we are to prevent/minimise the spread of infection.
- **School must be informed if you no longer fall within the critical worker list or you have been asked to self-isolate.**
- Thorough hand washing to take place at home just before leaving the home.
- Childcare will **NOT** be provided at weekends or on public holidays.

The following list has been produced by the government as being 'key workers'.

Health and social care:

doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff, 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 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.

Kind regards,

**Miss C Taylor
Headteacher**