



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Louise Bury B. Ed  
Chedworth Drive, Warndon, Worcester WR4 9PG  
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Email: office@st-josephs-pri.worcs.sch.uk - Website: www.stjosephsworcester.co.uk



Archdiocese of  
Birmingham

Dear Parents/Carers,

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

The Government advice this morning is that parents should keep their children at home, wherever possible and schools have been asked to remain open only for those children who **absolutely need to attend**. This is not a statutory requirement but is part of the national response.

It is critical that we make our position clear to you all at this time. Given the delay in further Government guidance with regard to the list of Key Workers and the overall numbers of children we can accept safely; it has become increasingly hard for us to provide the reduced provision from Monday. We have moved quickly but it is imperative that we avoid chaos and confusion at the school gate. Government advice is to inform you that the school will close **this evening Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March and will not reopen for children on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.**

On Monday the school will contact parents directly if they are to be offered a place within the **reduced provision**. This decision is **non-negotiable and in the best interest of the whole community.**

Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for those parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so. Parents of children who fall within Government criteria will be contacted by **12.30pm** on Monday. Our intention is to contact via email however, in the event that that is not possible then you will be called personally by myself or a member of the leadership team. This is a time where contact details **MUST** be up to date. Acceptance of the offer **MUST** be received via the school office by 2.30pm on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**. If you are contacted, you must make it clear whether the provision is needed for your child.

It is important to remind you that we are in a state of global emergency and life **cannot be considered normal**. We have a duty of care to ensure our educational establishment remains a safe place for your children. The Government have recommended that fewer children in educational settings will lower the risk of the virus spreading and infecting the most vulnerable individuals in our wider society. This is the reality and although extremely difficult to comprehend, we have to stop the spread of this virus.

For those of you with pupils at home during this time, I am sure you understand that continuing your child's education is important for their future success as well as being a family and taking time to be together. Please use the packs and your child's year group pages for suggested activities. Should the closure continue after the scheduled Easter holidays then daily activities with more detail will be found on your children's year group page on the website. This will give you more specific guidance on what to cover at home.

As I said in my last letter, the country is in a state of emergency and we have been given very little time to action the Governments plans, which change and develop daily. I thank you for your continued understanding and support. The school office will remain operational at this time and any changes or updates I will keep you informed of via the website, twitter, text or email.





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My primary concern is the safety and wellbeing of staff, pupils and parents. This is not an easy time for any of us and we need to be strong. We can do this and we will get through this. Daily prayers for our community have become a way of life here at St Joseph's. Please can you pray with your children for our school which although will be split is still one and will always be St Joseph's.

St Joseph pray for us

Mrs Bury  
Headteacher

**A reminder of the school email address by which you must inform us if you are in the key worker category. ([office@st-josephs-pri.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs-pri.worcs.sch.uk)).**

