

ST JOSEPH'S



Headteacher
Mrs L Payne

Westminster Diocese
Hertfordshire County Council

St. Joseph's RC Primary School

Ainsdale Road
South Oxhey
Watford
Herts
WD19 7DW

Tel 020-8428-5371
Fax 020-8421-0568

19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

We are writing to you today with a message that feels unreal in a world that has changed unimaginably in just a couple of weeks and continues to change faster than any of us could have ever imagined. As you will no doubt understand, we are facing unprecedented challenges from the COVID-19 crisis, as are all kinds of businesses.

First and foremost, our responsibility is to ensure the health and safety of all our staff and children and it is now clear that we can no longer operate business as usual, as announced by the Government yesterday.

Following on from my last update, I am now sadly writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police and others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories by completing the survey below. We will be in touch again as soon as we understand who this applies to.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9KMTJD3>

Please complete the survey by Friday 20th March before 9.00a.m.

All other children will need to stay at home, please do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

Please note that this is a national closure so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by an email via our School Gateway System.

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

- Home learning packs will be sent home or delivered to you. These are for the next two weeks.

- You should have already received our online learning logins.
- Maths No Problem and CGP books are being sent home in case we are not opened after Easter. Years 1 to 5, please do not start these books until after Easter. However, Year 6 may start using these books.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

We will not be able to go ahead with the following:

- School trips
- After-school Clubs
- Events
- Internal exams or tests

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with us as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, but we will continue to keep you in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please do not hesitate to do so via admin@stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please visit the NHS 111 website.

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

God bless you and stay safe,

Linda Payne
Headteacher