



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my letter yesterday, I am now 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 to help stop the spread of Coronavirus.** Please note that this is a national closure so, while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open as soon as we possibly can and will let you know at the earliest possible opportunity (via text message, email, on the school website and via our social media platforms).

As advised by the government, we will do all that we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, blue light services) and children with certain needs. We are waiting for the government to publish the list of jobs that fall into the key worker category. Upon receiving this information, another letter will be sent asking whether you fall into this category and whether you plan to send your child to school.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

What we will continue doing while your child is at home:

Our other key aim is to ensure and maintain as much stability for the children's education as possible and we have been planning for this outcome. Whilst it may not be possible to fully replicate the educational experience at home, we have been working hard to put in place robust contingency plans to ensure your children can still access work and continue with their learning via the home learning model that we described in yesterday's communication. Work packs have already been sent home with all children and links to useful websites, resources and ongoing learning opportunities are available on the class pages of the school website, which will be used to support children's learning **in the two weeks leading up to the Easter holidays**. These pages can be accessed by clicking on the following link: www.ourladys527.herts.sch.uk/class-pages

In the very strong likelihood that the school remains closed beyond the Easter holidays, further activities and information on how to support your child's learning will be shared via your child's class pages on the school website. We will be sharing more information about this nearer the time.

Free School Meals:

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.

Useful Information:

While schools are closed, we should all continue to follow the health guidance set out by the NHS. Find out how to protect yourself by visiting the following website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

or further information on the government response to Covid-19, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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 wholeheartedly that this latest news will have a huge impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, but we will continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops via the usual communication platforms. We want to do all we can to support the work of the key worker services at this time and please know that we, along with the whole country, owe you a debt of gratitude and continue to hold you in the highest of admiration. Our thoughts and prayers are with all.

Please remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use NHS 111 online.

This is an unsettling and disruptive time for everyone and we will now hopefully see the living effects of communities pulling together and supporting each other in times of great need. Jesus said to his disciples, *'Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid!'* (Mark 6: 50). We all need to all hold on to this thought as we work together as a school and local community to face the challenging times ahead. Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these exceptional circumstances. If we can do anything more to help your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We will also be in touch with more information when we can.

Kind regards,



Richard Curry