

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Chapel Green

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Acting Headteacher: Mrs Liz Hills

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Judith Botterman

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with regret that I write to inform you of the indefinite closure of the school to all pupils as of 3.15 pm today.

The school will aim to re-open as soon as possible next week for the provision of some groups of pupil. However until the SLT and Governing Body have full details of the numbers of pupils who will be eligible to access childcare provision, under the Government guidance: Guidance for schools, childcare providers, colleges and local authorities in England on maintaining educational provision (19/3/20), alongside details of the capacity of the school staff to provide childcare provision, a decision cannot be made as to how St Mary's will support its community over the coming weeks.

Once this information has been gathered and reviewed, a plan will be put in place as to the support the school can offer, how this support will be delivered and who will be able to access this support. This logistical planning will take place on Monday 23rd March and so it has been agreed by the Governing Body that the school will remain closed to all pupils on this day.

As soon as the school is able to confirm plans for the coming weeks these will be shared with you and the school will endeavour to resume responsibility for those eligible for childcare support as soon as possible.

If you think you may be eligible to be considered for childcare provision because you are unable to arrange childcare in your own home, where the Government are advising is the safest place for your children at the current time, please refer carefully to the Government guidance at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Another email will be sent in due course today providing further information about how to proceed if you need to request childcare cover from the school, which you believe you may be entitled to, as there is no other workable option for your family at this time.

Thank you all again for your support and understanding at this very difficult time for our community and indeed, our country. Please rest assured that the school is committed to doing all it can to continue to support the work of those parents/carers who will be required to play a critical role in the Covid-19 response and to the most vulnerable children in our care.

I will be in contact with you all over the course of the weekend to provide further details about the arrangements for supporting children to continue with the learning at home next week.

I hope you all stay healthy and safe at this time.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Hills', written in a cursive style.

Liz Hills

(Acting Headteacher)