

# St Mary & St Paul's

## CE Primary School

Bryer Road, Prescot, Merseyside L35 5DN • Tel: 0151 426 6869 • Fax: 0151 430 8266  
Email: maryandpaul@knowsley.gov.uk • Web: www.stmaryandstpauls.org.uk



Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
Dear Parents and Carers

### **RE: Announcement regarding school closures**

**Tomorrow School will be open to only those who are Critical Workers (List Below) who can't find any alternative childcare and Nursery will be closed on both Tuesday and Wednesday. Online learning for Reception to year 6 will aim to start on Thursday and Nursery will be open from 8.05am until 3.05pm for those who normally attend on a Thursday.**

The government has instructed all schools in England to close from tomorrow except to vulnerable children and children who have parents whose work is absolutely critical to the COVID response. Once we have had indication of Critical Workers and have been in touch with our Vulnerable Children we will open wider.

The message from the government is clear. If children can stay at home, they should do so. Transmission rates are rising and the reason for closing schools is so that the ability of children to transmit the virus to adults is limited. If the vast majority of children stay at home, we will be able to offer remote education to all with online lessons. Teachers will be able to check in live with their classes and also provide recorded materials which will be invaluable to families who may only have one device to share.

If all children who are registered in those two groups attend school, it will not be possible for teachers to simultaneously deliver such high quality online lessons to the children in school and to those at home. We ask our families to help us by only sending children to school if there is no other option.

These low numbers of children can then be supervised by teaching assistants to complete the online lessons (delivered by the teacher) via laptops in school. If you absolutely do require a critical worker or vulnerable child place, then of course we will support you with this.

Please email [admin@stmaryandstpauls.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmaryandstpauls.org.uk) by 12pm on Tuesday 5th January with how you fit the profile of critical worker. This will allow us to plan effectively.

If you are struggling to access the internet or do not have a device which your child can use for home learning, please let us know.

We will be providing more information about our home learning programme will be posted on your child's Googleclassroom by the end of the day and a new text will be sent to you to get you online.

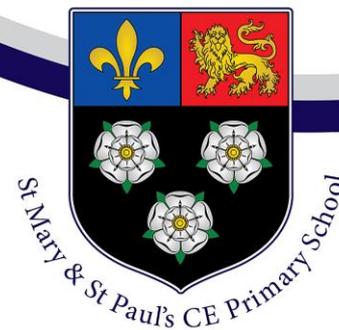
We hope that this closure will be for a limited period and that we can welcome all the children back into school very soon but it currently looks like this will be in place until February half term.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding during this difficult time.  
Mr Parks  
Headteacher

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### Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

#### Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; 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:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

#### Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arms length bodies

#### Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

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- 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- 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 and border**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- 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
- waste disposal sectors