



St John with St Michael CE Primary School



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Dear Parents/Carers

Following last night's government announcement that all schools (with certain exemptions) will close at the end of the day tomorrow (Friday) it will come as no surprise to you that we have been extremely busy today trying to make the necessary arrangements for this to happen.

Our work is frustrated by the lack of further information and advice coming from the government in particular what they class as "key workers" and which other groups of children will be allowed to attend school. At the time of writing this letter (2.pm) no further clarification has been forthcoming so we have been unable to issue any firm guidelines who will/will not fit the criteria.

Lancashire County Council education department have been "second guessing" possible scenarios and we have been asked to collate and forward to them the estimated number of students whose parents fall into a "key worker" role, this is why some of you have been contacted by our office staff today to confirm your employment roles.

What is becoming more apparent is that the estimated number of children not attending school will far outnumber those attending, it needs to be made clear that if some of our children fall into the categories identified by central government and we are required to open the type of education we will provide to those attending will be very different to what we normally do, in other words those staying at home will not fall significantly behind those attending school. It seems we are being told to provide a "child minding" service rather than a teaching service. That said we will encourage learning through play and we will continue to reach out to children at home by sending suggested activities and links to educational websites and games for you to get involved in with your children whilst they are at home with you.

We will not be able to provide extended hours clubs so if we have any children who fall into the categories identified by the government to attend school the school day will be the core hours of 8.50am until 3.30pm. School meal provision and/or any alternative provision for those receiving free school meals is still in the planning stages by LCC. We are sorry that this newsletter cannot provide any more detailed information as we had hoped to have a firm plan in place by the end of today, however please refer to our school website www.sjsm.lancs.sch.uk where if possible we can continue to update you as more information is released.

Please check that we have your correct mobile numbers so that in subsequent weeks we can continue to contact you by text. If you change your number or we don't have your correct contact details please email them to our office staff at Bursar@sjsm.lancs.sch.uk.

We will continue to update you as soon as we possibly can. Thank you for your understanding in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

K.Garner (head teacher) G. Entwistle (chair of governors)

