



Friday 20th March 2020

Re: School Opening for Key Workers' Children

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, we are very keen as a school to offer an essential service to those key workers and families that need it. However, may we remind you that the Government's priority in closing schools was to reduce the spread of infection. Therefore, even if you are classed as a key worker, if your children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

However, despite this advice we are concerned about the number of children potentially coming to school next week as we appear to have significantly more than many other local schools. We worry about the number of individuals still mixing at school and the potential for the virus to be taken back to family homes and thus impacting on the ability of key workers to attend their work place.

If your child has to attend school then we would like to make you aware of the following:

- School starts at the normal time of 8.45am and finishes at 3.15pm
- Children should attend in a clean school uniform
- Children should arrive be collected in the playground as normal
- We must have prior knowledge that your child is attending to ensure we have adequate staff, conversely please let us know if your child won't be attending if we were expecting them
- Children will still be encouraged to wash hands regularly, keep as much distance from each other as is reasonable and avoid unnecessary contact
- Children will be supervised throughout the day by a mixture of staff including teachers and teaching assistants, it will not necessarily be the normal adults they work with
- During the day children will have a range of activities on offer, they will not necessarily be having lessons as normal
- It is very likely that children will be working in mixed age groups
- Lunches will be provided on a similar basis to previously, if you were entitled to a free lunch then you will continue to be, if you pay for lunches then you will continue to be charged for them unless you bring a packed lunch. We will ask you to identify lunch arrangements via School Attendance form
- Each child attending school will need to have a parent complete a school attendance form in order that we are fully aware of when your child will be attending, lunch preferences, changes to collection and contact details and whether attendance at FABS is required.
- If your child has been off school recently due to self isolation, it is expected that the 14 day isolation period is observed.

We fully acknowledge this is a difficult time for everyone but thank you for your cooperation in keeping us fully informed of child's attendance and supporting us in managing this unusual position we find ourselves in.

Kind regards,

The St John's Team