**Holy Cross Catholic Primary School**

*‘Loving and learning together in faith*



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Gautby Road

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Headteacher: Mrs Clare Higgins

20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following on from my letter yesterday to inform you that **we have been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.**

We have been told to follow these key principles:

* **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
* If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then childcare provision in school will be available for them.
* Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
* Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
* Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

**If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:**

The key workers have been identified as:

**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 distributers of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

**Education and childcare**

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the 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, and 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 COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

**Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food 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 COVID-19 pandemic), 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**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems 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 COVID-19 response, as well as 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 and waste disposal sectors.

If you have not already completed the form below, please do so and bring proof of employment with you on Monday. We had thought the guidance would say that both parents/carers would need to be key workers unless you are a single key worker parent. It did not say this but has made it clear that we should be trying to have as **few children in school as possible** **as we are all safer if we minimise social contact. If one parent who is a key worker has a partner who is not working or can work at home, we would expect you to keep your children at home.** Some parents whose children are in these categories may be able to make arrangements for their children not to be in school. This is to reduce the spread of the virus as much as possible by reducing the numbers of children and staff in schools to a minimum. **No parents/carers are required to send their children to school at this time.**

School will be open for those children identified as needing to attend from 8:30am for those wishing to attend breakfast club or 8:55am normal opening time. (Please note there will be no charge for breakfast club) The school day will finish at 3:05pm as usual. We are unable to offer any after school clubs due to staffing. From next week all children identified as needing to attend will be dropped off and collected from the main office entrance.

We are still waiting for further information on the free school meal voucher system for those who are eligible, but it is likely that we will be emailing or posting these. In the meantime we will be providing a packed lunch that parents and carers can collect from the breakfast club gates on Gautby Road between 12:00 and 12;30. For children who are in school, meals will be provided as usual.

**In addition, please bear in mind that this childcare provision for key workers will remain subject to the school having sufficient staff available to enable them to remain open. If staff numbers fall, we may have to prioritise who places can be offered to. Further support for provision may then be offered through the Local Authority but we do not have details of this at present.**

**Please look at our website for regular updates on the situation. Information can be found on the parents section of our website.**

I would like to thank you all for your wonderful support.Stay strong and positive; look after each other.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Clare Higgins

Headteacher

**REPLY SLIP**

**Name of pupil:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Class:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I am a key worker employed as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Place of employment:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I do / do not require a childcare place (please delete as applicable)**

**SCHOOL OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Evidence of employment checked and photocopied**

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