**Holy Cross Catholic Primary School**

 *‘Loving and learning together in faith*



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Headteacher: Mrs Clare Higgins

 19th March 2020

Coronavirus: Update- school closure to most pupils

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following last night's government's announcement, we have been in full planning mode today.  The uncertainty regarding school closures has caused anxiety for families.  What we now know is that from the end of the school day on Friday the 20th of March the school will be closed to the majority of pupils.  This is an 'indefinite measure'.
 We have no indication how long this will last for. This measure has been put in place to slow down the spread of the Covid-19 (coronavirus) virus.

We recognise the pressure this will put on many families.  School closures mean self-isolation and social distancing. We will be trying to ensure that your children are emotionally supported and reassured today.  School is a place of safety and familiarity for children.  We know that they will be confused and anxious. Closing school is a helpful step, so our communities are able to care better for those who are unwell. We have sent home some resources and ideas to support your child's learning at home.

 The government have asked us to remain partially open for the most vulnerable pupils and for the families of key workers. In the spirit of the government's request to support key workers that offer will be open from nursery to year 6.

At present we are unclear about the scope of that provision.  The government have said that they will be providing clear guidance today on their expectations for schools, what roles 'key workers' will constitute and their plans for feeding free school meals children.  As soon as we have this information we will be contacting families with further details about the school offer, who is eligible and how you will register for this.  There is no need to contact us before then.

As a staff team we come to work every day to provide the best care and opportunities for your children.  Be reassured that we will continue working to ensure that we look after the families at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School and plan to re-open at the earliest opportunity so that we can safely educate and care for your pupils.

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)