



Wolverley Crescent
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 1BG
Tel: 0121 552 5491
Fax: 0121 552 2794
www.stjamesprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs C McGregor

Thursday 19th March

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday (20th March) until further notice.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services), and children with certain needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories. **Please see the attached response form.** Could we please ask that if one family member is a key worker, that the other parent be responsible for child care – we expect that both parents are classified as key workers for your child/ren to be in school. We are anticipating a relatively large number of children who we will need to look after in the coming weeks/months and this will need to be managed with reduced staff numbers as we already have staff who are self-isolating for their own safety. In order for the school to remain open and for the country to continue to function, we will only be able to look after those children for those families who need us the most – those with both parents employed as 'key workers'. We will be in touch again as soon as we are sure what roles are categorised as 'key workers' and whether it applies to your family.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open the school fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by text message and via our school website.

What we will continue doing while your child is at home:

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we will continue to help your child to learn. Some children may have received a pack of work from their teacher yesterday, if not this will be sent home tonight.

Further information will be posted on our website and some information will be shared via text message.

If your child usually receives Free School Meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

What we won't be able to go ahead with:

- > School trips
- > Breakfast club
- > After-school clubs
- > All school events
- > Internal tests

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with us as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops. If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us via contact.us@stjamespri.uk.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Name of child : _____ Class : _____

Name of parent (1) who is the 'Key Worker' :

Key Worker's contact number : _____

Occupation: _____

Employer's name : _____

Employer's address :

Employer's telephone number : _____

Name of parent (2) who is the 'Key Worker' :

Key Worker's contact number : _____

Occupation: _____

Employer's name : _____

Employer's address :

Employer's telephone number: _____

We will ask you to provide proof of your role as a Key Worker ie ID Badge / Wage Slip etc if needed.

Yours faithfully



Mrs McGregor, Headteacher