



# *St Anthony's Catholic Primary School*

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*We Grow and Learn with Jesus*

31st December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils**

Firstly, I hope you are all well and had a lovely Christmas.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday evening, we are in a 'high risk' area and must, therefore, adhere to the Government's 'Contingency Framework' Guidelines. This means that we have now been instructed to close our school on 4th January to almost all children until further notice.

Covid-19 cases are rapidly rising in the area of Watford due to the new, more transmissible variant of coronavirus. Therefore, the advice is that children must remain at home in order to break the chain of transmission.

We, potentially, could be re-opening on 18th January 2021 but, again, I am awaiting further confirmation of our opening date.

As advised by the Government, we will only be open for the children of Key Workers e.g. NHS staff, Police, Education staff and others in frontline. However, I must reinforce that if you are able to keep your child at home then that is the safest place for them.

Also we will be open for our most vulnerable children. We will be in direct contact with these families on Monday.

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If you are a **Keyworker** and have **no** alternative as no one else is at home to support your child, please complete the form attached to this email.

Please note, if a child/staff member in the Keyworker bubble tests positive for Covid-19, the entire Key Worker bubble will be sent home and be told to isolate for 10 days.

As ever, we have only received the latest guidance at the same time as you did, on the news with no prior-warning. As a Senior Management Team, we are currently working on how we can implement the updated changes. It is going to be incredibly challenging to teach children in school as well as effectively teach children remotely at home simultaneously. This is because our staff cannot be in two places at once.

## **Remote Learning**

From Monday 4th January, children at home will receive remote learning from their teacher through Microsoft Teams. Today you will receive a reminder of how to use Microsoft Teams. Children should upload their work to Microsoft Teams to enable teachers to comment with feedback.

As part of our remote learning offer teachers will:

- set work for children on Microsoft Teams in accordance with the school timetable listed below
- set high quality tasks for pupils and provide feedback on the work submitted to them so that your child can continue to progress and acquire new knowledge and skills in their home environment.
- give feedback in the 'posts' section. Individual feedback may also be given if your child requires it.
- be available during set times for questions.

The timetable below will begin on Monday 4th January:

Year Group	Time	Activity	Time	Activity	Time	Activity
Nursery	9.00am	Morning Prayer Independent play activities	10.30am	Independent play activities	No afternoon lessons as day finishes at 12pm	No afternoon lessons
Reception	9.00am	Morning Prayer & set independent tasks	10.30am	Maths & set independent tasks	1.00pm	Afternoon Subjects & Feedback-finished by 3.25pm
Year 1	9.00am	Morning Prayer English/Phonics & set independent tasks	10.30am	Maths & set independent tasks	1.00pm	Afternoon Subjects & Feedback-finished by 3.25pm
Year 2	9.00am	Morning Prayer English/Phonics & set independent tasks	10.30am	Maths & set independent tasks	1.00pm	Afternoon Subjects & Feedback-finished by 3.25pm
Year 3	9.00am	Morning Prayer English/Spellings & set independent tasks	10.30am	Maths & set independent tasks	1.00pm	Afternoon Subjects & Feedback-finished by 3.25pm
Year 4	9.00am	Morning Prayer English/Spellings & set independent tasks	10.30am	Maths & set independent tasks	1.00pm	Afternoon Subjects & Feedback-finished by 3.25pm
Year 5	9.00am	Morning Prayer English/Spellings & set independent tasks	10.30am	Maths & set independent tasks	1.00pm	Afternoon Subjects & Feedback-finished by 3.25pm
Year 6	9.00am	Morning Prayer English/Spellings & set independent tasks	10.30am	Maths & set independent tasks	1.00pm	Afternoon Subjects & Feedback-finished by 3.25pm

We readily acknowledge that this is a new way of teaching and learning that is unfamiliar both to pupils and to their teachers. Please bear with us as we learn new skills too. We will endeavour to make this transition go as smoothly as possible.

Should accessing work be an issue, parents should contact school promptly and alternative solutions will be made available (e.g. paper copies of work, etc.). These will be discussed on a case-to-case basis.

### Free School Meals

If your child usually receives free school meals, we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue provision.

This is as much as we know at present 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 will continue to keep you in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

Thank you again for your support and we will keep you informed with more information when it becomes available to us.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year

God bless you and stay safe

Elaine Harrold

Acting Headteacher