



# ST LUKE'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Foundation) Headteacher: Mr Gareth Dutton

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents

## RE: Closure of educational settings – information for parents – UPDATE 20.03.20

Thank you for your patience during what is an anxious and uncertain time. Yet again, thank you all for your support and understanding aimed at us but also at each other. We have such an amazing community!

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing.

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who **absolutely need to attend**.

It is important to underline that schools 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.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a very limited number of children including those who are vulnerable (for example, children who have an Education Health Care Plan or an allocated social worker) and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and **cannot be safely cared for at home**.

**Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. If you have a parent at home, the school cannot offer a place.**

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- Parents should not rely on 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.

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 at St Luke's.

Please see below for a list of qualifying keyworker roles:

### **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 distributors 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 arm's 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 think you fall within the critical categories above you should confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

Understanding all the information in this letter, if you believe that you qualify and you absolutely need to send your children to St Luke's please email the office ([office@stlukes.rbksch.org](mailto:office@stlukes.rbksch.org)) as soon as possible providing details of your keyworker role, employer name and the days that you need childcare where you do not have a parent at home. Families who responded to the survey yesterday do not need to respond as these places are already being allocated.

This is an offer to parents and there is no requirement for parents to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

We are able to offer this provision to a limited number of children as we are advised to run a skeleton staff so that we too are following the guidance on social distancing. The majority of the staff team have young families or dependants so we will do our very best to balance supporting our school community as well as our own families.

During this unprecedented time schools will be playing a different role, primarily about care, not education. We will not be following the national curriculum or completing statutory assessments as we would be required to do normally.

We aim to contact you by the end of the school day to let you know if we are able to offer your child a place and how the school will be run and organised going forward.

Once again thank you to everyone for your continued support of the staff team during this time, it is hugely appreciated. We are all trying to do our best in very challenging circumstances.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards  
G.Dutton  
Headteacher