



**SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary Academy and Nursery**

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Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

Firstly, thank you to all members of our school and local community for their **solidarity and kindness during** this unprecedented time.

Following our parental letter yesterday we have received updated information from the Education Secretary via the Government news conference on that same day. This information was not shared with us prior to the announcement today and so we are currently coordinating our next steps.

All schools have been informed that they are **to close on Friday 20th March 2020** at the end of the day. The Secretary of State for Education has said that 'After schools shut their gates on Friday afternoon, they will remain closed until further notice **except for children of key workers and vulnerable children**, as part of the country's ongoing response to coronavirus.'

Examples of these workers include **NHS staff, police and supermarket delivery drivers** who need to be able to go to work to support the country's fight to tackle coronavirus. **Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans.**

Please will parents who are identified as key workers, and parents of vulnerable children who wish to access on site education complete the form on the following link.

<https://forms.gle/gejbB3fGMqg1xMbT7>

To prepare, I would ask you all to help us collect information we might not have about your employment. Letting us know immediately if you think you may be eligible will help senior leaders plan staffing and arrangements.

**Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.**

We recognise that children may now have a prolonged period of time at home without the support and guidance from their school to help with their learning and wellbeing. You must engage with the services we can provide remotely to support your children. This is a stressful time for all families with a great deal of uncertainty and fear. How you will manage your own childcare arrangements may not be clear and there will be lots to sort out and consider. Talk to family, friends and neighbours and contact us if you need additional support or signposting to advice. Do talk to us if



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you are worried about feeding your family or financial support – we will do our very best to help.

During the weeks ahead, we will be working with the Government and our school meals provider Chartwells, to support ways to provide food for children who are usually in receipt of Free School Meals. We will update you via the website when a way forward has been confirmed.

### [Home learning – curriculum work you can access \(interim arrangements until 3<sup>rd</sup> April\)](#)

Our staff will prepare daily online teaching and learning resources that will be uploaded on to our website. We have purchased exercise books for all pupils to do work in, work on line can be copied and completed in the book provided. Work is accessible through a password-protected folder on our school website.

- Click the student tab on the menu bar
- Select student classes
- Enter the password SSPP2020

Each year group has a folder where you will find set work to do each day, labelled in date order. There is real value in setting a routine for your child/ren where they sit and work at a similar time each day. There will be teacher guidance notes to help support the learning where this may be needed.

Work set will be differentiated in a way your child will be familiar with, where children can choose the level of challenge. It will not be possible to differentiate work in the same way teachers do in class during these interim arrangements in the lead up to Easter, you may choose to access a different year group to meet the needs of your child – that is fine, what is important is that you encourage and praise their participation, setting this as an expectation within your family routine.

'Reading for Pleasure' audio recordings read by your child's class teacher will also appear daily. Your class teacher will let you know what books the children will be reading as you may have or like to order a physical copy for them to read along at home if you can. Please do encourage them to listen in, as familiar, daily contact with teachers will bring some normality and routine to them in these challenging times.

We are also sending children home with age related expectation work books with activities to complete inside. These will help your child continue to rehearse skills they would ordinarily be doing to allay some concerns you may have about their education. An activity from each book every day is suggested as part of your routine.

Once next week gets underway, we will also work to send out weekly spellings to learn and interact with. We will use videos of phonics teaching & PE sessions to join in with also. We will contact parents via text and through our Facebook page to signpost you to additional resources, assemblies, activities that we are able to upload for children to interact with. We want very much to ensure that children feel daily contact with their school and the teachers who care for them, even if it is temporarily not possible to function as normal.



### **Communication with school**

Class Dojo will be deactivated at the close of school on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Parents can email school on [sspeterandpaulprimaryacademy@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:sspeterandpaulprimaryacademy@wolverhampton.gov.uk) - emails will be accessed daily, prioritised and responded to within 48 hours.

Messages via SchoolComms will also be accessed.

If you have safeguarding concerns, you can contact Designated Safeguarding Leads for advice and support by emailing: [Safeguarding@sspeterandpaul.co.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@sspeterandpaul.co.uk) or calling Wolverhampton MASH on 01902 555392

It is likely that there will be someone on site to answer phone calls on 01902 556447 between the hours of 8:30am and 3:15pm each day.

Help us stay in contact with you by making sure we have the correct, current mobile numbers for you. Please download the School Gateway App and message for free.

Our school website will continue to be updated with guidance to assist you in accessing help and making decisions.

### **Other announcements**

Mass will not be said in Parish Churches at the present time and although I am disappointed to advise you that all sacramental preparation will be postponed, we can all look forward to the celebration that there will be when we can again come together as a community for things such as this, whenever that may be. Father Mark assures us of his prayers.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we are working hard to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils and staff. We also have a plan in place so that our pupils can continue to benefit from the best possible education no matter what the circumstances. The full detail may not yet be clear but this will come.

Please refer to our website for useful links and further guidance and do not hesitate to contact us. In the meantime, I would like to thank you wholeheartedly for your support of the staff and school.

May the Lord be with you, strengthen and protect you all.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Byrne  
Principal

