



St. Monica's Catholic Primary School
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20th March 2020

School Closure and Key/Critical Workers' Children

School will close today, Friday, and will not re-open until further notice.

We have previously emailed you about how work will be sent home by email to the email contact we have.

If you need to communicate with the school during this time, please do so by email to stmonicas@st-monicas.co.uk

We will contact you during the closure to keep you update with government advice, including as to re-opening when that is advised. For current Government information, please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Key/critical workers' children

To start, the aim is to keep the school open to children from these families.

The Government has now confirmed a list of those jobs which is below.

As this is about social isolation, the principle is that children should be at home (not in school) if at all possible. This includes those of key workers.

For those children from key/critical workers' families who need to be in school, we aim to be open from 8.30am until 3.15pm initially. This is in line or greater coverage than the majority of schools at this time. If you wish your child to be here later than 3.15pm, we will run Rainbow Club from 3.15pm to 4.30pm. School will not be open outside the hours of 8.30am to 4.30pm. We will keep these opening hours under review and will be in touch about any change.

Thank you to those who have emailed us to let us know that they think they are key workers. We will be in touch later today with regard to those children whose parents have informed us they may be in school next week, including on how to book care from 3.15pm until 4.30pm.

Please be patient with us – the list of key workers' has been confirmed overnight and we are working as fast as we can today to plan and communicate to parents.

We are drawing up registers today for those children who may be here on Monday and will confirm places. **If you have not had it confirmed by the school that your children can attend, do not bring them to school. We will be checking the register on the front gate as children arrive and any children not approved and on it will not be able to come into school.** The rear gate will not be open so all children are to be dropped off at the front gate.

Urgent action

If you think you are a key/critical worker and have not already emailed us, **please email stmonicas@st-monicas.co.uk or phone 01908 606966 as soon as possible today and by 12.00pm at the latest if you think you may be a key worker and you will want your child to attend school after tomorrow.** Please have details of your employer, your job role (any partner's/husband's/wife's employer and job role) and details of your children's names and classes.

The Key Worker list published by the Government reads:-

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.

What if the school closes to key worker children:-

If the school is to fully close for any reason during this time of partial closure, we will be in touch. Our aim is to keep it open if circumstances in any way enable that.

For children who do come to school, the emphasis will be on caring for the children with a variety of activities. We will not be delivering a full academic curriculum.

Please be patient as we contact you about Monday and communicate with you about this. We have had very short notice of the key worker groups and will be in touch with all who have informed us. Again, you must inform us by 12.00pm today if you wish your child to be here on Monday.

As to the children and families who will not be with us until further notice, I thank you for your support, wish you and your families all the best and really do look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Kind regards,

Robert O'Malley

Headteacher