



St. Monica's Catholic Primary School
Currier Drive, Neath Hill,
Milton Keynes MK14 6HB
Tel: 01908 606966 Fax: 01908 608486
Email: stmonicas@st-monicas.co.uk

30th December 2020

Dear Parents

School Closure at the start of next term (except to Key/Critical Workers' and Vulnerable Children)

You may already have read or heard today that primary schools in Milton Keynes will not be opening to all children at the beginning of next term. This is due to the high level of COVID infection in Milton Keynes – the level is very high compared to the national levels. Instead, teaching will be done remotely as when we were closed earlier in the year.

This is a Government decision and we have found this out late this afternoon just as you may have.

I am writing this evening with initial information and will get back to you with further information over the next couple of days.

School will not re-open next Tuesday, 5th January, as planned except to children of key/critical workers and vulnerable children. It has not yet been confirmed when primary schools in Milton Keynes may re-open to all children. I will keep you updated of progress on this.

For all other children, teaching will take place remotely, including through GoogleClassroom, starting on Tuesday, 5th January. We have experience of remote learning from earlier in the year and will get back to you with further details.

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/news/school-contingency-plans-to-be-implemented-as-cases-rise>

Vulnerable children

The school will contact you if your child falls under this category.

Key/critical workers' children

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

As this is about social isolation in order to reduce transmission of COVID, the principle is that children should be at home (not in school) if at all possible. This includes those of key workers if you have somebody at home (including working from home) who can look after the child. Please keep them at home if you can.

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.

We are drawing up registers this week for those children who may be here on Tuesday, 5th January, and will confirm places. If you have not had it confirmed by the school that your children can attend on or after Tuesday, 5th January, 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.

We will email tomorrow parents of all children who were registered as critical worker children when school was closed previously with details of how to book your child in for next week if you need to.

Urgent action

If you think you are a key/critical worker and your child was not registered with us when school closed earlier in the year and you wish to register them now, please email stmonicas@st-monicas.co.uk by the 6.00pm tomorrow, 31st December, with details of your employer, your job role (plus 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 – childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers, specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (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, 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms' 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak), 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 coronavirus (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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response, 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, waste disposal sectors.

What if the school closes to key worker/vulnerable 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 providing the children with a variety of activities, including doing work set by their class teachers for those working remotely.

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.

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

Kind regards,

Robert O'Malley

Headteacher