



# Serve - Learn - Challenge - Love

Holy Trinity CE Academy Rothwell

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Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

## Coronavirus: School closure update and essential workers

### Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

School will remain officially closed as part of the efforts to ramp up the social distancing of the population to suppress the spread of Covid 19. My ongoing aim for is to open with the smallest number of children and a rota of staff on site, with most staff working remotely on our longer term plans to support learning at home for the majority of pupils. We are open for essential front line and other key workers who have no other safe childcare options and for children with other needs (parents/carers have been contacted).

Any front line and essential worker who are unable to make other safe childcare arrangements are very welcome to take up our school offer if work would otherwise be effected. My aim is to reduce the number of children to the absolute minimum and ask that where families have possible alternative arrangements then they are used. Each family must manage their own risks and avoid putting pressure on those over 70 or with an underlying health condition. Families also need to reduce social contact wherever possible.

### The Government guidance states:

'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, colleges and other educational establishments 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.'

### It continues:

'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.'



## **At Holy Trinity**

This message is stark and clear and I need all of our key workers to consider this. When you have alternatives (not vulnerable adults) then please use these. We will be running our provision with a rota of skeleton staff to prevent the spread of the virus and to ensure that we have staff in reserve so that our provision runs as long as it can. This is going to be school but not as we know it. We aim to be here for our key workers so use us when you absolutely need us.

As time is short and communication difficult I am putting arrangements in place for the next week to include 7.30am-5.00pm before and after school care. I need to take further advice from parents in terms of whether this is needed, government in terms of who pays and longer term how this will work including the issue of Easter holidays which I have yet to resolve. I wanted to give you reassurance so you can plan the coming weeks and focus on the job ahead. This will give us time to have a proper conversation around what is needed and possible. By midday today I will e-mail out to all who have requested a place to check it is still required and with further information.

## **Key Workers**

A list of key workers can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you are a key worker and absolutely need us for childcare, then please email school:

- the names of your child(ren),
- parent(s) role and employer,
- employment details of other household members and current working arrangements
- days you need
- whether you are currently self-isolating but would require a future date

## **The Long Haul**

Staff are continually looking at ways in which we can use Seesaw and Tapestry to share work with you and for you to share your child's learning with us. It is vital that you use these platforms and we would ask that you contact the class teacher on your class email address if you are struggling to access this:

[year1@holytrinityce.co.uk](mailto:year1@holytrinityce.co.uk)

[year2@holytrinityce.co.uk](mailto:year2@holytrinityce.co.uk)

etc.

At some point we may have to concentrate staff resources at a hub school to ensure ongoing provision. In this event we envisage that this would be a local school and we are talking to Haigh Road and St Mary's about how we do this.

The Young Minds website has advice for pupils struggling with the worries that this pandemic brings. Staff will be providing daily work and feedback during school hours as long as they are fit and well and also not on the skeleton rota that day. When teachers are timetabled to be in school other staff will monitor Seesaw for their class.

I want to say thank you for your ongoing support and I keep the whole school community in my thoughts and prayers.

Yours Sincerely

D. Foulke