

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, the Government have taken the step of closing schools to the vast majority of pupils in order to help to stem the spread of Covid-15 (Coronavirus). This has been done at extremely short notice and we have been working hard to make plans that ensure the pupils can still take part in meaningful learning activities. These activities include access to activities provided by their class teachers, information from Children's University and online learning. Information has been shared by each class teacher and they will be keeping you updated with further information and ideas as we have it.

However, in order to ensure that people designated as 'key workers' (as defined by the Government) can continue to work, the Government has determined that schools should remain open as a centre of *childcare*. **Attendance for this group of pupils is optional and parents should keep children away if possible.** As the reason for this partial closure of schools is to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, we would urge parents to make alternative arrangements where possible. In the words of the Government, '**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**'. Please help by keeping your child/ren at home if at all possible.

Parents who are key workers should have received an email this morning if they have made contact with me.

Schools have also been asked to remain open for pupils who are defined as 'vulnerable' according to Government-determined criteria. Attendance for this group of pupils is compulsory and parents have been notified if their child is in this category.

If your child does not meet any of these strict criteria and you have not identified yourself as a key worker, school will not be open for them until further notice.

From Monday, pupils who will not be in school will be expected to work from home, just as their teachers will be if they are not working in school. We have plans to ensure that this is regular and appropriate to the children. These plans have already been shared with you.

This is a decision that has been taken by the Government and is one that has been designed to prevent unnecessary social contact to help overcome the spread of Coronavirus. Please support your child/ren's learning by enabling them to carry out their learning activities that will be provided by the school.

For those children who are attending school, please enter through the main entrance. Dress is non-uniform (comfortable clothes and trainers).

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this incredibly difficult and uncertain time. Your support is greatly valued. If you have any further queries, or would like anything to be explained in more depth, please contact me on head@st-augustines.lancs.sch.uk.

Mrs. S. Colbeck
HEADTEACHER