



## St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

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*Headteacher: Mr S McNicholas*

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another day, another letter (this day may have two – we'll have to see!).

As you now all be more than aware, schools are due to close to the majority of children at the end of the day tomorrow.

The small subset of children that will still be able to attend school fall into the following categories:

- Children of Key Workers (for example, NHS staff)
- Vulnerable Children (those that have the involvement of social care or have an Educational Health Care Plan)

**We are waiting for a definition of 'Key Worker' from the DfE** – clearly proving a difficult list to compile! Headteacher Twitter has gone into meltdown with the frustration of it all.

If you are in the second category, you will be receiving a call from the school to discuss your specific needs, so please don't fret.

It is important to note that, even if you are in the Key Worker category, if you have sufficient childcare arrangements in place, such as a partner or other family members (importantly, not those that are elderly), please don't send your child to school unnecessarily.

The measures yesterday taken were taken to reduce the spread of infection, so the fewer children at school, the more effective this measure will be and the safer the children and staff will be. Please be mindful of this in the weeks ahead, so that we can provide maximum safety to the teachers, who are Key Workers themselves, and allow them to protect the work of our front line efforts.

Once the last bit of the jigsaw trickles down from on high, we will release an online survey for you to provide details and proof of your Key Worker status.

Once we have that, we understand the cohort that will be coming to school and we can staff it appropriately and we can get on with getting through the next set of hoops and hurdles.

No doubt we'll all be keeping an eye on the daily briefing this afternoon to see what it means for us all, but you know what they say about 'darkest hours'...sometimes they are our finest hours, and sometimes they arrive just before the dawn.

God bless

*Everything we can be, with Christ in our hearts...*

Yours sincerely,

Stephen McNicholas

Headteacher

*"In our school children, staff, parents and carers, governors and parish will work together to create a caring, learning environment with Our Lord as the focal point in which each child is valued as an individual, nurtured and encouraged to fulfil his/her potential."*