

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Cherry Orchard,
Lichfield,
Staffordshire,
WS14 9AN
Tel: 01543 263505
email: office@st-josephs-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk
www.stjosephslichfield.org.uk



Headteacher: Mrs D McLeary

20 March 2020

Dear **Critical Worker** Parents,

As you will probably be aware, we have now received the list of those critical worker roles that may need us to help support them and their children during this incredibly difficult time.

As always, we want to ensure that we can support everyone who needs us, however, it is extremely important to bear in mind that 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**.

We will be providing childcare (not curriculum education) in mixed age groups during this time. It is essential that you only consider sending your child to us, as per the government's key principles and you have no other option;

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support (in the form of an EHCP) or has a parent who is a **critical worker**, then childcare provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents who are over 70, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

If your work is **critical** to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children may attend St. Joseph's on Monday:

For information on **critical** workers please see –

<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 think your current employment falls within the critical categories above you should confirm with your employer, in the first instance that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

We request that you provide us with proof such as ID or confirmation from your employer that you are a critical worker.

We expect that if you choose to send your child in during this period, to ensure safeguarding, that:

- Children **MUST** arrive for school by 9am and will not be able to leave until 3.30pm
- You inform us of the days on which you will require childcare
- This provision will be regularly reviewed and communicated to critical worker parents. Any changes will be communicated to you.

Wraparound and Easter Break childcare will be provided by Badgers, please contact them directly to arrange this care if needed.

Following this letter, there will be a form added to the Coronavirus tab on the school website that all **critical** worker parents need to complete (even if you communicated with us yesterday) **before 12.30pm today** for us to put the necessary arrangements in place.

If you are a **critical** worker who does not require childcare at present and your situation changes, do not hesitate to contact us at office@st-josephs-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk

As always, we continue to do our very best for you and your children and continue to keep you all in our prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McLeary
Headteacher