

# ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher:  
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Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following on from the Government's announcement this evening, schools have now been instructed to close. We opened today and we tried our very best to continue to remain open for our children, but this is no longer possible. We have an incredibly committed staff and I know you will join me in saying a huge thank you to them. I am sorry for the change in plans and the late notice of this communication. I would like to thank you for your continued support during these uncertain and unsettling times. Thank you also to the parents that have sent in positive messages of support for the team.

**School will be closed tomorrow (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January) for ALL pupils.** We will use this day to plan for remote learning and finalise numbers of vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Once again, I am sorry for this late notice. Please ensure you have logged into Google Classroom and familiarise yourself with the platform if you have not already done so. There are lots of videos online to support the navigation of this platform.

School will reopen on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. We will send a separate parentmail to parents who have been allocated a critical worker place tomorrow afternoon. Remote learning will be made available to all families via our Google Classroom platform. The work will be upload by 10am each day at the very latest.

### **Vulnerable children and children of Critical Workers - reminder**

**At this stage, we need to clarify numbers of families who meet the vulnerable and critical worker criteria (see end of letter) and do not otherwise have access to childcare.** If both parents are critical workers or you are a critical worker and a single parent and wish to use our school's provision, you must notify us by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 12pm if you would need this provision. Please also complete the paperwork if only one parent is a critical worker. **Please do not assume that completing the form attached entitles you to a school place from the agreed start date. We will allocate places based on numbers, which may mean we only offer a place to children where both parents are critical workers.**

The aim of this provision is to reduce the number of children in school whilst ensuring that essential workers are available to work as required. **As such, even if you are a critical worker, if you do not need this provision, because you already have suitable childcare in place, we urge you to keep your original plans.** The provision being offered cannot be opened to others who may also need to work, and we appreciate that this will cause difficulty for many of you.

If you meet the Government's criteria and wish to access the school's provision, please complete the form attached and email it to [admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk) along with your work ID by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 12pm. Even if your child accessed provision last year, you must still complete the new form with your work ID. Once this date passes, we will NOT be able to provide a place for your child.

Vulnerable children and children of critical workers would be accessing the home learning in school. They will not be having separate lessons from the teachers. We aim to keep these children in their usual classroom as we do not want children to mix with other classes, however this will depend on numbers and



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staffing capacity. I would expect you to follow the guidelines we previously had in place regarding the one-way system, wearing of masks on the school site, not approaching classroom doors and social distancing.

Please note that absence of staff due to self-isolating could lead to either a partial or full closure of the school if not enough staff are available to ensure the safe operation of the school day.

### Home Learning – reminder

From Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, teachers will be uploading daily work onto Google Classroom. Remote learning activities will be set each day by the class teacher and they will be contactable on Google Classroom throughout the normal school hours – 8:45am – 3:15pm. If you have difficulties logging in, please contact the school office and we can reset your password.

If you need support when accessing online learning from home, please contact the school office. School has access to laptops that we can lend to families if necessary, however, we will expect you to sign a disclaimer form. Telephone contact can still take place with the school via the office telephone number. Work can be printed in school for collection if necessary.

There is an expectation that you support your child's engagement with remote learning from home. I appreciate that for some families this will be incredibly difficult as you will be working from home, please do what you can, when you can. You can contact your child's class teacher via Google Classroom to support you during the normal school day. Teachers will engage with pupil's work and give feedback using the various features on Google Classroom so please either 'turn in' their completed work or take a photo of it and upload it to Google Classroom. Please do not send work in via our admin address. Staff will also aim to contact their class once a week on the telephone to 'touch base' and offer any support with home learning to the child and to you if necessary.

We will continue to teach the same curriculum as we would in school. However, we may need to make some adaptations in some subjects. We will use a combination of approaches to teach the children remotely. Please note that teachers will not be providing live lessons. Following guidance from the Government, teachers will set work that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school. For primary aged children, the Government suggests 3 hours a day, on average, across the school cohort.

Please note that staff will be in school (so long as they are well enough) managing vulnerable and children and critical workers as well as planning for home learners. I ask that you are patient with us and with the Google Classroom platform.

Please do not forget to keep in contact with the school and email in photos of the children doing their activities so we can tweet and share them with the rest of the school community.

Please continue to keep the school community in your prayers.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Miss Puccio  
Headteacher



Mrs Curtis  
Chair of Governors

### Definitions of critical workers:

#### 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



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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, and the delivery of and response to EU transition essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), 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 and EU transition), 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 and border**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure 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.

