



St Mary's Bluecoat C of E Primary School

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Executive
Headteacher:

Mrs C Gaskin

Federation
Director of
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Learning:

Mrs L Holt

Chair of
Governors:

Mr C Steventon

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Coronavirus update - school closure to most pupils

I am sure you have already heard last night's announcement from the Secretary of State. After Friday of this week, all schools in England as providers of education will be closed 'for the foreseeable future'. As you will have also seen, schools have been asked to play a different and vital role in the national effort in tackling the coronavirus.

From Monday, schools are being asked to open to provide care for vulnerable pupils and those whose parents or carers are key workers. **For all other children, our schools are closed as of Friday and children should remain at home. Families should continue to follow government guidance in respect of Coronavirus.**

The Secretary of State is clear: this is an entirely different role for schools and school staff. It is primarily about care, not education. In the next 24 to 48 hours we expect to receive further information from the government as there are many areas where schools need urgent clarity from the government, including specific definitions around 'key workers' and 'vulnerable pupils'. Once we have the necessary clarity of information we will begin to shape our plans to meet the government expectation and more importantly, our school community needs. We may need to contact you to determine whether you are in the 'key worker' group and if so, whether it will be your intention to use any childcare offer from us.

Across The Trinity Federation and Morville School combined, we anticipate maintaining a skeleton staff over the coming weeks/months to ensure we can support those families who fall into the key worker category and require this care element in order to allow them to continue their invaluable work on the frontline.

Our offer for 'key worker' parents from Beckbury, Morville, Worfield and St. Mary's Bluecoat schools will be based at St. Mary's Bluecoat CE Primary School. We have a larger, more modern building at St. Mary's Bluecoat which is easier to keep clean and the additional space will allow us to continue to carefully manage the in-school health and safety issues and do all we can to reduce the spread of the virus. In the next 48 hours, along with my executive leadership team, I will be making the necessary plans required to realise this provision and communication to parents will follow as soon as we are able. We also have our specialist SEND hub at St. Mary's Bluecoat where we will be able to continue to offer care for our children with EHCPs should their parent/carer choose to send them to us.

Morville School pupil toilets are due to be refurbished during the Easter break and as far as we know, the work is still going ahead and therefore keeping Morville School open is not a viable option if we are to offer care during the Easter break also.



Participating School 2015-16

I do need to reiterate that school leaders can only open a school if it is safe to do so. If there are not enough staff to open St Mary's Bluecoat School, even in this new limited role, then we would have to review our offer. Staff from all of our schools, when not required to support our care offer, will be working from home on various tasks including assessments, reports, planning and subject leadership actions (to name but a few). As you are already aware, a number of staff have underlying medical conditions or are pregnant and so these staff will not be asked to work in school during the closure. Obviously if staff become unwell or have to self-isolate then they will not be able to work in school.

We will be updating our school websites over the next few days to include details of home-learning opportunities for children. If your child has already been self-isolating or ill this week then your child's school may have already sent this information to you.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our school staff for their resilience in the face of recent challenges and their commitment to our children, demonstrated so passionately this week. Your children's well-being has been at the heart of every decision made in our schools since the outbreak of the virus. I have seen staff in many roles volunteer to do additional cleaning and staff have invested time in reassuring anxious children. I think it is important that we all remember that school staff have families too and they, like you, have been overwhelmed at times by the rapidly unfolding events.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C. Gaskin
Executive Headteacher
The Trinity Federation and Morville CE Primary School (Academy)

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

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