

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent,

Thank you for contacting your child's school yesterday to inform us that you believe either your own and/or both of your child's parents' jobs may fall into the government's 'key Worker' definition. This was really helpful as it allowed us to better understand possible numbers of children who will be needing to attend our provision during the enforced closures and we have now been able to shape our childcare offer.

The government have this morning published their guidance and they are now using the term 'critical Worker' rather than key Worker.

You can read the guidance for parents by clicking on this link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#).

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear;

If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why 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**.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But 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.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

In light of the information you have provided we can confirm that your child can be offered at place at St. Mary's Bluecoat childcare provision.

Thanks to the dedication of our staff and their desire to support the national effort to beat this virus, we can confirm that our offer to the children of Critical Workers is as follows;

Term-time Childcare for the Children of Critical Workers:

Monday to Friday from 7:30am until 6:00pm, St Mary's Bluecoat CE Primary School will be the base for our 'Critical Worker' childcare offer for all of the schools in the Trinity Federation and for Morville Primary School. This is in line with government advice and LA advice and exceeds requirements.

Between 7:30am and 9:00am Ms Jo Galley and Mrs Deb Bartholomew will be based in our nurture room to allow any early morning drop offs. Both members of federation staff are very experienced Higher-Level Teaching Assistants and your child will be extremely well-cared for.

The sessions after 9:00am will be staffed throughout the day by a member of teaching staff from across our schools. Dependent upon numbers, we will most likely group children in an EYFS group, a KS1 group or a KS2 group with age appropriate activities.

A member of the federation leadership team will be on site too. A number of teaching assistants from all four schools have also volunteered to support our teaching staff in the provision of this childcare or by fulfilling other vital roles at this time.

Easter Holiday Childcare for the Children of Critical Workers:

In addition to the term-time offer which will run until further notice, we will also be offering childcare from **7:30am until 5:30pm during the Easter break**, with the exception of Good Friday and Easter Monday when we will be closed.

This childcare is offered to allow the Critical Worker to attend their place of work. It is not intended to be used if a parent is not at work or another parent is working from home and we ask that you use our offer fairly and do all that you can to follow the government advice to keep your child at home whenever possible.

I am certain that Critical Workers will agree that this is a comprehensive offer and one which will allow you as a Critical Worker to continue to fulfil your vital work at this challenging time.

IMPORTANT PARENT RESPONSE NOW NEEDED:

Having read this information it would be helpful if you could now confirm to Mrs Jayne Seal, administrator at St. Mary's Bluecoat whether you plan to use our childcare offer. Please be prepared to tell Mrs Seal when **in the next week** you are likely to be sending your child(ren). Mrs Seal can be contacted on 01746 763455 or by emailing admin@stmarysbc.co.uk.

Once you are using our provision there will be a system in place by which you can provide us with an indication of your childcare needs for the week ahead.

We will send to you later today specific information about the childcare provision such as meal information, safeguarding, clothing, and other key operational information. We thank you for your patience at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

C. M. Gaskin

Mrs C. Gaskin

Executive Headteacher

The Trinity Federation and Morville CE Primary School (Academy)