

# St James' Primary School

Main Road, Biddenham MK40 4BD

Telephone: 01234 352721

Email: [office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk](mailto:office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk)

Website: [www.stjamesprimary.org.uk](http://www.stjamesprimary.org.uk)



**ST JAMES'**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

19<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Dear Parents,

Last night the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education announced that schools are to close at the end of tomorrow, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, except for the children of key workers (as defined by the Government) and pupils deemed vulnerable.

At this stage we don't know how long this closure will be for but we are working on the assumption that it is likely to be for some time, and we are planning for the eventuality that it may last throughout the summer term.

We have been working on contingency plans in anticipation of this announcement and with two weeks of term time remaining, we want to reassure you that we will do our best to provide learning at home.

From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March the school will be open for our most vulnerable (those who have an Education Health Care plan (EHCP) or have current social care involvement) and children of key workers such as those whose parents are on the front line with the fight against the virus in the NHS, emergency services, social workers, teachers and school workers, care workers and those involved in the delivery of our vital supply chains including those who work in supermarkets and food stores.

We have spent the morning trying to gather as much information as we can about which children have parents who may be key workers – thank you so much to everyone who has responded to our earlier request for information. If you haven't yet responded, you must do so now – [office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk](mailto:office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk). At the moment, it is not clear whether children can only come to school if **both** parents are keyworkers; however, we need to try and keep numbers to an absolute minimum so that we can do our bit to maintain social distancing. Therefore, if only one of you is a keyworker, we would ask that you aim for the second parent to do the responsible thing and keep your child(ren) at home. We also ask that you only send children to school when you are at work.

We continue to await further clarification from the Department for Education. **All other children must stay at home from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.**

Whilst at home, we are sending packs of work for your children to complete and will provide learning activities via our school website (<https://www.stjamesprimary.org.uk/children/our-classes>). We are also setting up special class based email addresses so that you will be able to send any completed projects to class teachers via emails. We know a number of you are planning virtual home schools and community based



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activities – we think this is a fabulous response, and over the coming days, we will contribute some ideas from us which will help support you with this.

I hope to be able to send home more certain information soon. At the moment, all we know is what was announced yesterday, there have been no further communications thus far today.

These are unprecedented and challenging times but we are committed to your child's education through our learning support and through caring for those who will continue to attend school. We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone but if you have any questions then please do email us ([office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk](mailto:office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk)).

We are absolutely committed to working with you all to do our bit to ensure our community can get through the coming challenges, and although we may be closed, we will still be here, if you need us!

I'll be in touch again when I know more,

Very best wishes,

Maria Soulsby

