



Our Vision

To inspire a love of learning

St Gilbert's Church of England Primary School

Foundry Road Stamford Lincolnshire PE9 2PP

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, thank you to you all for working so closely with us and supporting us during a time when there is an ever-changing picture.

Further to the Prime Minister's announcement, I am writing to you with further information regarding the detail of the statement.

All schools will close on Friday 20th March 2020 for the majority of pupils. The school will remain closed to these pupils until further notice is given by the Government. At this stage, we do not know how long this forced closure will remain in place.

In addition, Gilberts Gang will cease to provide before and after school care from Monday 23rd March until further notice. The Easter holiday club will also not run.

As a school we fully understand our role in ensuring that the country keeps moving and that critical roles are enabled to continue. However, we also fully appreciate the impact this will have on families whose children will now be at home.

Schools have been asked to play a different and vital role in the national effort in tackling the coronavirus: to remain open to provide support for the children of identified Key Workers, enabling them to continue to provide vital services during this difficult time and also to provide support for identified vulnerable pupils.

From Monday 23rd March, schools are being asked to open to provide care for vulnerable pupils and those whose parents or carers are key workers. The Secretary of State is clear: this is an entirely different role for schools and school staff. It is primarily about care, not education. The Secretary of State has also indicated that he would like schools to continue to provide this care during the Easter holidays, wherever possible.

As a result of this action, the Government have also announced that all forms of primary assessment have been cancelled for this year, as have all accountability measures and league tables. Indeed, for our school, this means that our children **will not** participate in the annual Primary School Assessments including: EYFS Assessments, the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check as well as the Year 2 and 6 Statutory Tests (SATs).

Firstly, I must stress that the government has asked **parents to keep their children at home wherever possible** and asked schools to **remain open 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. 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.

St Gilbert's will therefore remain open for those children of identified key workers, as well as for identified vulnerable pupils who are not showing any symptoms of the Covid-19 virus. **However, every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision is available.
- Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
- 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.

Identified vulnerable pupils are considered to be children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

In addition to these pupils, we are also required to provide care for children of Key Workers.

Please find the relevant identified key workers below:

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 the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the 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, and 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 COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, 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 COVID-19

pandemic), 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

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems 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 COVID-19 response, as well as 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 and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

Please can you advise the school by completing the form sent separately as to whether you work in one of these sectors and also whether you require care for your child as defined by the Government.

Please respond by 12pm today. We will then send a separate communication to those attending school on Monday 23rd March 2020.

As the school is now closed for most pupils, the teaching staff have been working very hard to prepare work for all those children who will be absent during this period.

By the end of the day on Friday March 20th 2020, all work will be uploaded onto the school website for you to access. Pupils will also be bringing home some paper with them today to support them in completing the work. Should you not have access to a laptop/PC or internet access please complete the separate Parentmail form and we will provide paper copies for you to collect.

We will do our very best to support and guide our school community through this difficult time. Thank you once again for your support and understanding. On behalf of the staff and Board of Governors, every good wish for the coming days. Keep safe and well, and I will be in touch with you once I have further news.

Any changes to this advice will be communicated to parents via Parentmail and our school website.

Kind regards



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