



ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Principal: Lisa Belfield
Executive Principal: Jill Pilling

St James C.E Primary School
Hillside Avenue, Farnworth, Bolton, BL4 9QB

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Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are all aware our school will close to pupils today until further notice. As a school family we are incredibly upset about this but we fully support and understand the government's decision in regards to school closures. The government's most recent scientific advice on how to limit the further spread of COVID-19 is clear - if children can stay safely at home, they should.

From Monday, school will be offering a reduced provision for some of our pupils. These pupils include:

- Pupils who have an Education, Health and Care Plan;
- Pupils who have involvement with a social worker;
- Pupils who have a parent who is classed as a critical 'keyworker'.

We have now organised places for these identified pupils; please do not send your child to school if you have not heard from us. The government are stressing to us that it is safer for children to be at home at this moment in time. The provision we are offering is for children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to COVID-19 response and cannot be cared for safely at home.

The measures put in place for school closures are there for the safety of the community. We urge those families whose children will not be in school to follow all of the social distancing guidelines that the government have set. The link for this government information is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

School will now be operating on minimal staff, which means some staff will be in school whilst others will work from home. Your child should have come home yesterday with a work pack which will also include links for online learning. You can have regular contact with your child's class teacher through 'Edmodo' (KS2 pupils), our Facebook page (please DM us and we will be monitoring this) and our office@st-james-farnworth.bolton.sch.uk email address - please put your child's class teachers name in the 'subject' box so we can get it to the right person.

If you would like more paper based resources for home schooling (as you can't access the internet), please ring the school office. We will be open as normal from 8:30am until 4:00pm. You can leave us a message if the answer phone is on. We will then prepare a work pack for your child and if you are not self-isolating you can come and collect, or send a family member/friend if you are self-isolating. For those of you who missed our second work pack yesterday, we will organise for staff to post this through your door next week.



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In regards to Free School Meals, we have made the decision to ask Bolton Council to provide a grab bag to be collected from school for children. We are awaiting confirmation about this from the council. In the meantime, please make sure we have your most up to date mobile number as we will text parents who are eligible with more information on Monday morning.

At this moment in time we are unsure as to when schools will reopen. When we are equipped with the relevant knowledge, we will text out to parents and post on our Facebook page. Please follow us at @stjamesfarnworth as our teachers will also be posting videos and resources you can use at home with your children. We are really going to miss our pupils so this is one way we feel we can keep in touch.

I would like to apologise personally for the inconvenience that this will all cause you. I hope you all appreciate that this is completely out of our control and school are doing their very best under challenging circumstances. I would also like to thank the school staff who are putting themselves at risk in order to keep school going for those who need it most.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families well and we very much look forward to seeing you all when the time is right. St James CE Primary is an amazing place to work because your children make it such a delight to be here every day. We are going to miss you all incredibly. Please keep in touch with us during this difficult time; we are only at the end of the phone for anything we can help you with.

I am so lucky to work with all of your children and not forgetting our wonderful staff and parents/carers. God bless and see you all soon.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Belfield
Principal