**St Edmund’s Catholic Primary School**

**Corona Virus letter**

20/03/2020

Dear parents/carers,

First of all, I would like to say thank for your patience. Some schools have already sent out information about which children are eligible for child care. I was not prepared to do this until we had definitive guidance from the Department for Education.

The purpose of this letter therefore is gather to enough information which will allow us to compile a list of those children who will be eligible for childcare during times that schools are closed. I know that this is a time of great uncertainty and many parents will be anxious about the times ahead. School have closed in order to reduce the spread of the corona virus, protect the most vulnerable and ensure that our front line services remain operable. It is imperative that we all act with integrity and honesty.

The guidance states that ‘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 remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.’ It also says, ‘The fewer the children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in the educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.’

Children eligible for child care:

1. Those children in receipt of an Educational Health Care Plan or are in the process of receiving one
2. Children who are receiving support from social care
3. Those with safeguarding and welfare needs,
4. Looked after children
5. Young Carers
6. Disabled children
7. The children of key workers (please see the link to the list of key workers)

We have compiled a list of children who are eligible due to points 1 to 6 and we do not require any information from parents. We do, however, need to find out which children require child care because their parents are key workers.

Here is the guidance that outlines who is classed as a key worker:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

In order to enable us to compile this list we ask that you would promptly complete the survey below, if you believe that you and/or your spouse/partner is classed as a keyworker:

[Key Worker Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RMQPQFJ)

When we have a list of children who will be eligible for childcare we will contact you and may require contact details for your employer. Next week, breakfast and after school clubs will remain open where necessary.

It is important to note that where children are eligible for child care but their parents do not wish for them to attend school, the decision is down to parents - attendance is not compulsory.

This is clearly a rapidly moving situation and I will write to parents next week to explain how we will proceed in the coming weeks and possibly months. I will write to parents later to explain how provision for children in receipt of free school meals will continue.

May I take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all of our staff, who yet again, have risen to this challenge, to you as parents for your unwavering support and understanding and most importantly to those people who are working daily caring for those who are most in need.

Stay with us Lord on our journey.

Kind regards,

Mr Lawman