



LEIGH XII APOSTLES' RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEL PAN LANE, LEIGH, WN7 5JS
TELEPHONE: 01942 674312
SCHOOL WEB SITE: www.twelveapostles.wigan.sch.uk/
HEADTEACHER: MRS S. M. NEWTON BA Hons QTS

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am sure that you have heard that the Government have announced that all English schools will close at the end of Friday 20th March. This is for the foreseeable future while the Covid-19 epidemic persists. I can assure you that we will do everything we can in the best interests of all our school community over the next few weeks and months. We are awaiting further guidance from the Government, but we are putting contingency plans into place at this stage.

What we do know is that we will be expected to provide a service for the children of key workers that are unable to arrange alternative childcare so that they can continue to do vital jobs. We are waiting for clarification regarding who key workers include. Presently, this is NHS staff, police and supermarket delivery drivers.

Therefore, to help with this process and to ensure we have staffing levels to accommodate this, we need to gather information about those families who this is relevant to. As soon as we have this information a clear plan can be put in place and arrangements made so we can open school as soon as possible. We also need to liaise with other schools in the community as part of the plan may involve providing a central hub where children will be able to access care.

Please provide school with the following information by 10am Friday 20th March via this email address:

keyworkers@twelveapostlesleigh.co.uk

Name and year group of child

Your specific job role and title

Day/s required for child care in school

The Government stated that schools need to close in order to suppress the spread of the virus. Therefore, there should be a limited number of children in school at any one time. It is critical that if you have alternative childcare, you do not send your child to school in order to keep numbers to a minimum and support this plan.

We have a high number of children with EHC plans. Therefore, if your child has an EHC plan and you are unable to provide alternative child care, we are asking that you contact school as soon as possible. Mrs Nelson, our Pastoral Mentor, will contact separately all families with allocated social workers.

For those children on free school meals, we will provide a packed lunch for parents to collect from the school office from Monday 23rd March. **Please inform the office or order through EVOLVE dinner ordering system on a daily basis by 9.30am each day. Please ensure if you order a meal you can collect it from the office between 11 am and 1pm each day.** Please ensure if you make an order you collect the packed lunch to avoid food being wasted at this critical time.

We will keep you up to date and informed via email and our school web site as and when we receive more information.

The Department for Education have launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

I know that this is a worrying time for everybody, but it is important that we all support each other through this as a school community. We will be the community that learns through friendship and our Christian faith, and will be there for each other even if we can't see each other as often.

It is important that we look after each other and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Mrs S. Newton

Headteacher