



LEIGH XII APOSTLES' RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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HEADTEACHER: MRS S. M. NEWTON BA Hons QTS

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sure that you will appreciate that today we have received a high number of phone calls, applications and enquiries regarding childcare places in school for key workers. I am sure that you can appreciate the difficult position that school is in and understand that there are difficult decisions to be made in terms of prioritising these requests. We must first and foremost give priority to those children whose parents cannot keep their child safe at home.

The Government has asked parents to keep their children at home wherever possible and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. The fewer children making the journey to school the lower the risk. We also need to limit the number of children in our school to ensure that we limit the risk for our staff and children. **This is emergency care provision working with a skeleton staff in school.**

We have also received enquiries regarding 'proof of key worker role' but only for one parent. Whilst the guidance indicates that 'one parent/carer, who is identified as a critical worker by the government, can send their child to school BUT ONLY IF REQUIRED; however, the following important rule applies in accordance with the official government guidance:

- Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. Therefore, if the other parent is working from home or is able to have leave from work, they are expected to care for their child. If school prioritise your child for a place in school, you will be contacted today (Friday 20th March) and be informed that your child has a childcare place in school from Monday 23rd March.

It is important that parents understand the new role that schools are being asked to take during this difficult crisis; schools are now taking a childcare role and will not be delivering teaching as they do typically.

CHILDCARE IN OUR SCHOOL:

- * Children can only attend if they are well, fit and healthy with NO MILD ILLNESSES.
- * School must be informed immediately if the critical worker needs to self-isolate.

- * Children will work in classrooms in small groups and staff will keep to stringent social distancing measures of 2 metres.
- * There will be activities for children to choose, but no direct teaching.
- * The staff will take children outside frequently to provide fresh air and greater social distancing.
- * Children must not wear school uniform - we insist on fresh, clean clothes daily.
- * School will operate a breakfast club for any key workers that usually have a place starting at 8:00 am.
- * The normal school day will operate 8:50 am to 3:15 pm.
- * School will only care for your child on the days you are required to attend your work place.

Once we are underway next week, it may be possible that we are able to adopt a waiting list of eligible parents that 'missed out.' Our priority today is to ensure that we have the critical children attending on Monday.

Once again, can I thank parents for their kind words and support during this very difficult time.

Kind Regards
Mrs Newton