



Birmingham City Council Education Department

# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher  
Mrs. D. Linley



19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE – SCHOOL CLOSURES TO MOST PUPILS

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories. Please contact the school office on 0121 357 9892 or via email at: [enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk). I am aware that circumstances can change unexpectedly and I want to assure you that should you require support, we will do our utmost to support our families at St. Mark's.

**All other children who are not vulnerable or children of key workers will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. I am grateful to work with such a dedicated team of staff who are doing all that they can to support me in keeping the school open for as long as we possibly can to support our families in need and on the frontline.

Your child's learning is of course important to us, in order to support your child to learn at home we will be doing the following:

- Providing parents/carers with a link to a list of websites that contain a vast number of learning programs and activities who are offering free subscriptions during this time
- Providing children who do not have access to a computer with learning resource packs to complete
- The school website will be publishing weekly activities for each class to undertake in key areas of learning
- If you would like any further support, you can contact the school via the school office on 0121 357 9892 or via email at: [enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk) and we will endeavor to provide further learning support materials to those families who require them



If your child usually receives free school meals, we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced. However, please appreciate that this may take a little time for us to organise. In the meantime, I have contacted parents of children who qualify for free school meals and for those that would like it, we are providing food packages to go home with those children this Friday.

To further support you as parents with finances, we will be refunding ALL class trips already paid for in the hope that we can re-book trips later in the year when families are more financially secure.

**The following are events that have been postponed until further notice:**

- All school trips and events such as class assemblies, workshops, meetings etc
- All internal and statutory tests
- Year 3 Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

**HELPING HANDS (Before and after school club provider)**

**Please contact Helping Hands directly if you require provision before and after school on 07904942281.**

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience while we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to inform you with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via the school office telephone on 0121 357 9892 or via the school email address at: [enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk)

I, along with all the St. Mark's team would like to thank you all for your support and that we are very proud of all of the children for being so sensible regarding extra hand washing and keeping calm, they are a credit to you all.

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. D. Linley  
Headteacher

