



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

St Peter's Park Road, Broadstairs, Kent. CT10 2BA.

Email: office@st-josephs-broadstairs.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01843 861738

Executive Principal: Mr C Wright

Academy Principal: Mrs K Millership

20th March, 2020.

Ref: Virus Planning for Closure

Dear Parents & Carers,

Schools will close on Friday 20th March across the nation. This will present real challenges to parents who are trying to earn a living and work from home. Our approach to home learning (which you have received from Academy Principals) has taken this into account. Little, often and fun if possible. We are mindful that parents will probably need home computers to work from so in all cases a mixed approach has been settled upon in the 3 schools. This will evolve over time I am sure.

Thank you for being patient. We were told lists of emergency school places criteria would be with us at 9.30am Thursday morning and it only arrived this morning. We will apply the criteria strictly with no exceptions:

Health & Social care staff: Front line NHS staff, front line support staff in the social care sector, those who distribute medicines and those supplying the NHS with protective equipment in the supply chains.

Education & Childcare: Nursery, teaching staff and social workers required to work on the frontline with the public only.

KEY Public services: Those required to manage the dead, run the justice system & public sector broadcasters.

National & Local Government: Only those essential to deliver COVID responses.

Food Workers: Those who distribute and deliver food.

National Security: MOD, police, police support, soldiers, fire service, prison & probation staff.

Transport: Those essential to Covid 19 response only at a national level.

Utilities: Oil, gas, electric, water, nuclear, chemical & telecommunications staff, postal staff, (if considered key to COVID responses).

If any of these workers have a partner working from home or not working they are not eligible see section below.

School Places During Closure

I have met with local Headteachers yesterday morning and we are all working together and taking the same approach. As the lists were being collected, many parents listed for places but these lists will be reviewed using the national criteria.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

St Peter's Park Road, Broadstairs, Kent. CT10 2BA.

Email: office@st-josephs-broadstairs.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01843 861738

Executive Principal: Mr C Wright

Academy Principal: Mrs K Millership

You will receive an email or phone call from senior staff before Monday informing you if you have a place for your child, (likely Friday if the internet is working again). Children not offered a place will not be permitted to attend on Monday as teaching staff and support staff will have been calculated using these lists. If you are not offered a place please do not complain. **However, you can put a request in writing with any supporting material and send it to cwright@kcsp.org.uk** . I will review these against the criteria as soon as I have time. If I feel our initial assessment was wrong I will reconsider in light of staffing and review provision; consulting with Governors and local Headteachers. Be mindful that not all schools are in the fortunate position we are in at this time that they can offer places at their school. There are many staff off work due to illness, isolating, health conditions and family considerations. If too many parents register our provision will close and move to a local hub model.

These places are intended for families who, by working, will be able to keep people safe, keep society functioning and treat the many sick that this nation will have shortly. Please do not see it as childcare.

I would remind all parents that we are trying to operate under minimal social contact. Therefore, fewer children means it's **safer for children and staff who are volunteering on the front line.** The duty of care to staff at this time is certainly something that I ask all parents to consider carefully when making their decisions regarding taking up places. We have an initial contingency plan and reserve staff who will take their place when they get sick, which is likely under the current social contact guidance regime we have chosen to implement nationally. **If a family member is an emergency worker but you are not and you live in the same house, you should not be taking a school place. In effect you should care for your children at home.** Teachers are entitled to places but my staff will only be allowed to take these up if they are teaching on the front line with no-one else at home. My wife and I are both teachers and will not be sending our children in, we will be juggling. This has been criteria uses the national guidance provided by the government on the following link:

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

(We reserve the option to withdraw places offered if they have been sought under false information. We have asked for job information and we will also in some cases be seeking to verify this information including details or partners work status).

Children identified **as vulnerable or those attending with EHCP plans will have these places in term time only.** Any Easter provision (which I will contact you about on Friday 27th March) will be for Emergency workers only. **Children who have an**



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

St Peter's Park Road, Broadstairs, Kent. CT10 2BA.

Email: office@st-josephs-broadstairs.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01843 861738

Executive Principal: Mr C Wright

Academy Principal: Mrs K Millership

EHCP for serious medical conditions should not be in school. All Headteachers I met at CACOT have taken the same decision on the grounds of safety. Parents wanting to appeal this decision can write to me in person at cwright@kcsp.org.uk. I will personally review it, discuss it with a local Headteacher and inform you of my decision in due course.

Office staff are working late every day to assist with parental communications and take urgent calls from parents – be nice to them, they are doing a terrific job.

Children Under Social Services

Some families are taking up these **term time places** and some are not because they are isolating or because in the current pandemic they feel it is unsafe to do so. If you have not taken up your place, schools Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL's) will be in contact weekly by telephone. If we are shut down beyond two weeks and children are not coming to school, I will do home visits by appointment with one of my DSL's or Academy Principals. Please accept these phone calls and visits in the spirit in which they are intended. We are here to support and help if able to do so. For the purposes of your own planning for these visits, I do not take sugar but I do eat biscuits. If you do not answer calls we will be obliged to visit so please return or answer calls.

At the time of writing this is a service we intend to continue with even if we move to a lockdown scenario. Those under Early Help do not qualify for school places but may receive a phone call of support.

Those in Receipt of Free School Meals

We are waiting for national guidance at time of writing. It is likely I will need to write again on Monday afternoon regarding this matter. It is a high priority on our to do list! Under discussion is:

- Purchasing of online food vouchers which we will be able to email to parents who are FSM that they can use in shops for groceries only (this could take time to administer).
- We are in discussions with Chartwells our school meals provider. However, we must consider carefully the impact of social contact on our decision making. We do not have delivery capacity.

This will be for families on low incomes and should not be confused with the meal infant children receive for free when they are in the lower school.

Through the church we have the opportunity to register 12 families with the Catholic Children's Society the CCS. This is a crisis fund that has been made available through the church as a result of COVID 19. However, we have a problem with GDPR rules. **WE CANNOT REGISTER YOU WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION.**



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

St Peter's Park Road, Broadstairs, Kent. CT10 2BA.

Email: office@st-josephs-broadstairs.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01843 861738

Executive Principal: Mr C Wright

Academy Principal: Mrs K Millership

Please email your Academy Principals if you need this service and we will forward your details.

Foodbanks in Thanet:

At a time when our community is faced with the most trying of circumstances, we want to be able to share with you the Foodbank organisations in place across Thanet. These have been set up to support our communities most vulnerable and will be needed now more than ever.

If you are able to support these extremely worthwhile services, your donations of food and/or hygiene products would be gratefully received. Conversely, if you find that you need the assistance of a local Foodbank, please see details below of where they are situated in and across Thanet. We will continue to share this information across our websites and social media platforms.

If you would like advice or further support, please contact your Academy Principal in the first instance who will endeavour to help you and your family if we are able.

Ramsgate:

Salvation Army Foodbank 167 High Street, Ramsgate, CT11 9TT

Birchington:

Stonehouse Birchington 31 Station Road, Birchington, CT7 9DJ

My understanding at time of writing is that the local Whitstable foodbanks can be contacted but will be using a voucher system. Therefore, cash donations to these local charities are more valuable in the current time than food.

Finally, thank you for your support during challenging times. Can I please reiterate, we can only reply to urgent emails at this time. Do not ring the school unless it is urgent or you are registering as an emergency worker.

Warmest regards,

Chris Wright
Executive Principal