



# Saint Edmund's and Saint Thomas' Catholic Primary School

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4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## CORONA VIRUS UPDATE 31

Dear Parents

As we now know from the Prime Minister's announcement tonight, schools are closing from tomorrow 5<sup>th</sup> January until 15<sup>th</sup> February except for provision for children of key workers and children deemed vulnerable. In the case of our school based Nursery it will be only open for Key workers and vulnerable children too but this may be subject to change.

We need to be able to collate information to assist us in making an appropriate provision. All other children will have remote learning established from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

You will recall that we were limited in our offer to key worker children last summer due to risk assessments of the accommodation and its facilities so we will make offers based on the best advice which is available to us.

I respectfully remind everybody that the government has been persuaded to take this course of action by SAGE and the science of the new covid variant transmission rate as the core issue seems to be around large group gatherings before and after school. Therefore as a key worker, you are not obliged to send your child to school.

Key workers are those working in essential **NHS services**, police fire, ambulance services, supermarket delivery drivers as well as those working in social care and armed forces. If you are in any doubt about the impact of your occupational role, the definition below may help

A key worker is defined as somebody who works within the public sector and whose **continuing employment is deemed crucial to both the economy and in helping to battle the infection**

If you wish to be considered for a place in order to assist the school with this collation of critical information, please return the slip below through the office or email us directly at [admin.stedmundsandstthomas@schools.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:admin.stedmundsandstthomas@schools.sefton.gov.uk)

Thank you for your support in keeping all school community safe. I have attached a reminder of the DFE definition of key workers as of 31/12/20

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Loftus Headteacher



**ST EDMUND'S AND ST THOMAS' KEY WORKER REGISTRATION FORM**

**JANUARY 2021**

Please understand that we will aim to accommodate a safe maximum of key worker and vulnerable children.

**Key worker parents who had places last time will still need to complete this application**

**Vulnerable children families will be contacted by the school**

**Please be patient with our response as so little time has been given to planning given the timing of school closure announcement.**

Please note Department for Education definitions for key workers below

I require a school place for my child/children

Name of parent/carer.....

Name of child.....Class.....

Name of child..... Class.....

Role as key worker.....

Employer's name and contact details.....

## **Critical workers definition DFE 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

### **Health and social care**

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

### **Education and childcare**

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

- **Key public services**

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

### **Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arms length bodies

### **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution

- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

## **Public safety and national security**

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

## **Transport and border**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

## **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors