



St Paul's C of E Infant School
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The Cardinals
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Headteacher: Sue Brown

Headteacher's Newsletter – 20th March 2020 – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Children Attending School from Monday 23rd March

Late last night the government issued it's [guidance](#) for schools.

The most recent scientific advice on how to limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear – If children can stay safely at home, they should as this limits the chance of the virus spreading. Schools have been asked to stay open only for those children who **absolutely need to attend**.

Eligibility for the school care as of Monday 23rd March 2020 is that children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the government can send their children to school if required. However, I must emphasise that the government guidance also states that **“many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.”** I also have to consider staff, their health needs, their families and how we should maintain social distancing for staff.

The government message is clear, parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.

Please consider this guidance and if you need your child to attend school for some or all days, I am very happy to accommodate this so please let me know – please call me on 01252 400222 or email me on head@stpaulstongham.com

Parents Entitled to Income Based Free School Meals (Pupil Premium)

At St Paul's all children receive free school meals, but some are entitled due to low income. If you are entitled due to income then we can continue to provide lunches for your children. This is most likely to be in the form of take away/delivery. I am still working out how we can best do this but someone from the office will call you today to find out if you would like lunches provided.

“Most Children”

From Monday, teachers will be trying to direct distance learning. We intend to use our Purple Mash and other online systems. Children who were in school yesterday will have received the Purple Mask login in the package. For those children who weren't in school we will get them to you electronically.

I will send more information when decisions have been made, but today our priorities are to arrange provision for those who need to attend from Monday, the free lunches for those entitled and supporting those who are in school today. We will have a special closing assembly for staff and children at the end of the day.