



St Bartholomew's CE Multi Academy Trust  
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## St Bartholomew's CE Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers

### RE COVID-19

Dear Parents,

We have now received further advice from the government in relation to people who are to be classed as Key Workers. We will be working hard today and over the weekend to ensure that we have suitable childcare provision in place for these children in school. The list is extensive as it will take many of us to support the country as we fight this virus together. As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. **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. This is in order to save lives so we ask that parents adhere to this.** We do understand that front line emergency service and NHS workers that work shift patterns, will need time to sleep and recover from these shifts and so will be able to send their children whenever necessary.

The key principles we are asked to follow are:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. 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.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

The full guidance is available for you here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

I have been asked by some parents whether they must send their child into school and the answer is no, if you are able to care for your child at home then you should. If you do not need care full time but only part time then we can support you with that as well as for any children who only need childcare on some days. In school things will be working very differently as children will not be working in their usual class groups and will be with different adults so that we can support the advice to ensure as many adults in school as possible will work from home and flexibly over the coming weeks.

Many parents have contacted me individually to ask questions. If I have not answered your question above I will endeavour to get back to you in the next few days. Hopefully, as this situation progresses we will be clearer about what we can do.

I cannot wait to reopen our doors to everyone as soon as is possible. We will continue to contact you throughout this crisis and do everything we can to keep all of our children safe. If you are in self-isolation or find yourself in an emergency situation, please do not hesitate to contact us to see if we are able to help.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Kilmister  
Headteacher