



ST. LEONARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL AND LEO'S NURSERY

St. Leonard's Avenue
Stafford
ST17 4LT

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Spearing

Telephone: 01785 334960

Email: headteacher@st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk

Website: www.st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk



20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to thank all parents for their support and patience at this incredibly challenging time for everyone. The news that schools are closing for many has thrown up many challenges that we as a school will face in the coming weeks and months.

We are sure you will appreciate that similarly to other key workers, we also have families we worry about, partners who are vulnerable because of underlying medical conditions, children we now need to take care of, and relatives we will not be able to see for some time. Unfortunately, we are working at a reduced capacity as many staff are having to self-isolate for a variety of reasons and this will inevitably continue. Therefore, it is essential that those families who do not qualify from the government list or who have some way of looking after their children at home remain at home. We do understand that for many families this will mean you may be unable to work, however this is the guidance put in place by the government to help us as a nation cope with this pandemic.

Guidance for schools remaining open from Monday was posted in the early hours this morning (see link below). The guidance is clear **"If children can stay safely at home, they should."** As a school and because of the need to prioritise we are saying that if one parent is not in a Key role they should be staying at home to look after their children. My view as your Headteacher, based on the guidance, is that all parents should endeavour to keep their children at home safely. The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread across St. Leonard's School and the wider Staffordshire community. Outside of school parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way that can continue to spread the virus.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors, our school staff are committed to providing childcare whilst you are at work. We are opening for school hours from 8.45am to 3.25pm. We will no longer be providing before and after school provision

The Government have made it clear this week that this is no longer Education but 'Emergency Childcare' and although this is not the norm for us, we will not be providing normal schooling during these hours.

In summary, the scientific guidance is clear the fewer children we have in school each day the greater chance we have of limiting the chance of the virus spreading.

These are testing times and it is our civic and moral duty to keep our community safe, whilst at the same time keeping our critical services operating.

I would just like to reiterate that regardless of whether you are both key workers or not, that if you work shifts and can share childcare that you do so and similarly if you work part time that you only send your children in on the days you need to work.

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

Please could you consider this information carefully and fill in the survey (link below and on the school website) by **3pm today**.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=IBulWSM1GE69BJ9WM16rcMI7TUWfbWdOlvaFiBw2CLVUM0pNSDFEOEIMREE4UFoyUOFFV1hPS1ZSOC4u>

We will contact you before the end of the day to let you know the details of our offer and if your child will be allocated a place on Monday.

Provision cannot be accessed on an ad hoc basis.

Look after your health, look after your wellbeing and most of all look after yourself.

Best wishes to all.

Helen Spearing
Headteacher