



The Cathedral School of St Mary
Head Teacher: Mr M Dyson B.Ed
Cecil Street, Plymouth, PL1 5HW Tel: 01752 265270

Email the.cathedral.school@plymouth.gov.uk

<https://cathedral-school.eschools.co.uk>

20th March 2020

***** COVID-19 UPDATE *****

Dear Parents and Carers,

As many of you will have seen, this is our final day being open to the majority until we hear otherwise. It is important now to identify who still requires school to be open next week, and over the Easter period.

The guidance is clear as to who should be in school next week and over Easter. These are

- The most vulnerable children or key worker children who have no other childcare options available.
- Vulnerable children are those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).
- Key Workers are NHS staff, school staff, social workers, police, food supply workers and delivery drivers who must work. If you are unsure what a key worker is, there is now a list published by the government.

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

We will be contacting you today if we believe you or your child falls into any of the above categories.

Free School Meals

We will still be providing food for anyone who is in receipt of Free School Meals next week, even if they are not in school. *This is NOT for children in Class 1 or Class 2 who get the Universal Free School Meals.*

If you are a family who is at home, in receipt of free school meals and would like your child/ren to have a packed lunch made up for them, you must inform the school by 09:30 each day. The packed lunch would need to be collected from the school gates.

Timings

The school next week will open at the normal time of 07:30 for Breakfast Club and will finish at the normal school time of 15:15.



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Work

We will continue to set work and tasks for children to do each day. These will be set on either google classroom or class dojo. If you are struggling for paper and pencils, we have one exercise book and a pencil available for each child to take home and use. These will need to be collected from the school during the operating hours.

Wherever possible, children should not attend school, as this will increase the risk of the virus spreading to the most vulnerable in society and increase the risk to school staff and their families.

To date, approximately 60% of all children and 50% of all staff are self-isolating or unable to come into school due to Covid-19 symptoms, unwell children at home and/or someone in their household is self-isolating.

We fully expect those families who have another parent/carer in the household who is not a key worker to manage childcare at home and not send their child to the emergency childcare next week. Please see the form for further details and consider all childcare options carefully.

Important Notes:

- It is essential that only those children who qualify as vulnerable children or those of key workers with no other childcare options, are in schools.
- Parents/carers have a social responsibility to be honest and work closely with us to follow government instructions carefully, minimise social contact and not put lives at risk.
- No child or member of staff should attend any school site if they are showing Coronavirus Symptoms or are sharing a house with someone who is showing symptoms/self-isolating. Please follow government guidelines on self-isolation –ie symptom free for at least 14 days. Please be aware that, if children are brought to a school displaying symptoms, they will be sent home immediately and will not be allowed back to school for 14 days.
- Staff will be asked to rotate as they are available/not available to work. This means that staffing will not be consistent.
- The provision from 23.03.20 will be childcare, rather than education based. Due to the changing situation and age-ranges involved, you will understand that usual education provision is not possible. The best way for your child to access structured learning on a daily basis will be to home tutor your child using the school website and tools being produced by the school on a regular basis. Staff have already shown amazing flexibility



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and resourcefulness with this situation and have uploaded some great resources to school website.

A dedicated DfE **helpline** for education and children's social care providers and parents/carers to handle questions related to coronavirus was set up earlier this month. The helpline is open Monday – Friday 8am – 6pm and Saturday and Sunday 10am – 4pm. The purpose of the helpline is to ensure consistent and accurate information reaches education and children's social care providers and ensure that providers feel well-supported by DfE. The helpline details are: Phone: 0800 046 8687 | Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk.

If any of you need to get in touch with the school as a matter of urgency, our school mobile number is

07305715746

This is normally left in school overnight, but given the critical nature we find ourselves in, a member of staff will take it home with them each night so please only ring this number for an emergency if calling out of the normal school hours.

I want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to safeguard children and staff, react to daily challenges, follow government guidelines and keep school open to provide emergency childcare. Please continue to work with us to support the country during these challenging times.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr M Dyson