



Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School

Station Road, Penshaw, Houghton-Le-Spring, DH4 7JZ

Telephone: 0191 3854545

Email: admin@olqoprprimary.org.uk

Website: www.olqoprprimary.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs B. Reilly-O'Donnell

20 March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

We continue to keep all our families in our prayers at this difficult time.

Further to recent announcements about the partial closure of schools, we have now received further guidance which states:

If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why 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.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

From Monday morning, the school will be closed for MOST pupils but will aim to accommodate children of workers critical to the Covid-19 response during the school closure, for as long as this remains sustainable in terms of staffing and school access. If you are a key worker who falls into any of the categories listed below, and you are concerned about making childcare arrangements for your son or daughter, please email the school **urgently** on admin@olqoprprimary.org.uk . Please write KEY WORKER as the subject of your e-mail.

In the email, please include:

- name and year group of pupil
- your job title and place of work
- a contact telephone number

If you do not intend to send your child to school because you already have childcare provision, there is no need to e-mail the school.

If you do intend to send your child to school, it is essential that you email the school for safeguarding purposes. It is crucial that we have information in school about who will be attending.

All pupils attending school must wear full school uniform and bring a packed lunch. School will be open from 8.50am to 3.15pm.



If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

Health and social care

Education and childcare

Key public services

Local and national government

Food and other necessary goods

Public safety and national security

Transport

Utilities, communication and financial services

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service. Further details are available at

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

We are aware that for some families, school is a source of a guaranteed meal for their child. We are currently putting in place measures to ensure that funding is directed towards those who are entitled to it and once these are confirmed we will contact you again.

Our contingency planning also extends those pupils who are accessing additional pastoral support for mental health and wellbeing. We would like to take this opportunity to remind pupils about the on-line mental health services 'Young Minds' which is free and confidential. This can be accessed at www.youngminds.org.uk. Useful apps are 'Mindshift' and 'Sam.'

We appreciate that the closure will have an impact on you and your family and we will keep in touch via the school app and website with any updates as the situation develops. If you want to get in touch please do not hesitate to do so via email at admin@olqoprprimary.org.uk

Please use [NHS 111 online](https://www.nhs.uk/111) if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next. Please continue to follow the advice of Public Health and the government in the days and weeks ahead.

This is a very difficult time for everyone in our school and wider community but the following words from our school prayer will hopefully offer some help at this time:

*Peace, oh gentle peace,
Be our constant hope.
Queen of Peace accept our prayers,
From all dangers protect us all.
Queen of Peace hear the prayers of your children. Amen*

We will let you know when the school is reopening through a message on the school website, the school app and via a text message.

Thank you for your continued support.



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Yours sincerely,

B A Reilly-O'Donnell
Head Teacher

