



## Newsletter 26



*Every child fulfilling their potential in a nurturing learning environment underpinned by Christian values.*

**Mr P Hayward: Headteacher**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

They say a week in politics is a long time. I would say, a week in education is longer (this week). I really felt sad today in assembly. A greatly reduced class of Year 6 pupils were wondering if it would be their last day in primary education.

I know how they feel. My daughter was supposed to sit her GCSEs this summer but this will not happen. I saw her wear a school uniform for the last time today. These are challenging times and I am in a position to see that we need to take the government's warning very seriously. Washing hands; social distancing; self-isolation and staying home are proven ways to reduce the risk of catching the Covid-19 coronavirus. If it is possible, keep your children at home.

### **What is happening now?**

The government has *closed* schools.

### **What this means?**

Schools are closed to children whose parents are not considered to be *key workers*. The government has produced a list of workers who they feel are key to combating the Covid-19 coronavirus. The government has asked schools to offer emergency childcare places to the parents of key workers

### **How do I apply for emergency childcare?**

To be offered an emergency childcare place in school, parents need to apply to the school, giving a reason why the place is needed. To do this send an email to:

[office@st-andrews-weston.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-andrews-weston.staffs.sch.uk)

You will receive an answer by text or email.

Thank you to the parents who applied for places before 6.00pm on Friday (20<sup>th</sup> March). Texts have been sent out to those parents about places. If you have not received a text, contact the school office email. A number of parents said they may need a place after Easter. That is OK. If your work patterns are shifting and you are called to be a key worker then you can apply for a place.

**On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March school is closed to all children.** Staff will be in school planning the care of your children. Those parents and carers whose children have been offered emergency childcare places will be contacted by phone. This is to ascertain which children will be in school from Tuesday.

### **What happens in school?**

The children will be kept in the school hall because this is an open space and children can be spaced widely. Strict hand hygiene will be observed. Another classroom may be used if numbers increase. The children will be kept busy, completing their home learning packs, other activities and will get regular fresh air in small groups. The children will not be in their usual class groups, these will be mixed. Specific details of what to expect will be given to parents offered emergency childcare.

The school office will be closed. Please do not expect Mrs Palmer or Mrs Hughes to be available. They will be in school on certain days to carry out essential administrative and financial tasks. Answer phone messages will be monitored regularly and emails to the school office checked daily.

### **How long will school be closed?**

No one is certain of this. It seems unlikely that schools will be open in less than 12 weeks. That takes us to 12<sup>th</sup> June. Some estimates say the children will return to school in September.

### **How will I get home learning packs?**

Home learning packs will be available once a week. They will be sent by email to parents each Monday morning. Most children have received Monday's home learning pack. Parents who do not have a printer need not worry. Packs will be printed and left in the school entrance for collection.

Teachers email addresses have been sent out. Please be aware that the teachers and support staff will not be in school every day. If parents and carers contact teachers, they will try to respond on the same day (Monday – Friday). When not supervising children in school, teachers and support staff will be working on school development tasks, researching and producing home learning packs and carrying out tasks around school.

### **What about the school leavers?**

If the school closures continue past the end of the summer term, Year 6 pupils and other leavers will be invited back to school to say a fond farewell. The school will organise a leavers' celebration.

### **What about Easter?**

Many key workers are going to be asked to work through Easter and so they may need emergency childcare for their children. It has not yet been decided if the school will open over the Easter break. I will be holding meetings next week to decide what will happen in school during the Easter break. Once I know, I will let you know.

There is so much uncertainty ahead of us. I will endeavour to keep up to date with the many changes and challenges that are before us and keep you posted. In the meantime, thank you for the many kind comments we have received over the past couple of days from parents who understand the difficult situation we all find ourselves in.

Mr Hayward.

### Prayer Space

#### A prayer for the world

God of love and hope,  
you made the world and care for all creation,  
but the world feels strange right now.  
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.  
Some people are worried that they might get ill.  
Others are anxious for their family and friends.  
Be with them and help them to find peace.  
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,  
and all who are working to discover  
the right medicines to help those who are ill.  
Thank you that even in these anxious times,  
you are with us.  
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.  
Amen.

**I will include dates for the year ahead once I know when schools will open.**

#### Dates for the academic year 2020 - 2021

##### Autumn Term 2020

Inset day: Tuesday 1 September  
Inset day: Wednesday 2 September  
Term starts: Thursday 3 September

**Half term: Monday 26 October - Friday 30 October**

INSET day: Monday 2 November  
Term ends: Friday 18 December

**Holiday: Monday 21 December - Friday 1 January**

##### Spring Term 2021

INSET day: Monday 4 January  
Term starts: Tuesday 5 January

**Half term: Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February 2021**

Term ends: Thursday 1 April

**Holiday: Friday 2 April - Friday 16 April 2021**  
**Easter Sunday: Sunday 4 April 2021**

##### Summer Term 2021

Term starts: Monday 19 April

May Day: Monday 3 May

**Half term: Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June 2021**

INSET day: Monday 7 June

Term ends: Wednesday 21 July

**Holiday: Thursday 22 July - Tuesday 31 August 2021**