



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 11 | March | Friday 20th March

Dear all,

I would like to start by thanking you all for your patience and understanding over the past two weeks. The educational and national landscape has evolved on a daily basis and it has been a challenging time for us all. I appreciate all of you who have taken the precautionary measure to self-isolate when COVID-19 symptoms have been displayed and also for those of you who have continued to send you children to school despite all the uncertainty.

School closure

As I am sure you will have heard, schools across the UK will be closing at the end of today in order for us to better manage the impact of Coronavirus. There has been speculation about this for some time and we will now implement the plans we have put in place.

As mentioned earlier in the week, all student work has now been uploaded onto SMH. If you are having any issues with this, please call the school office or email Miss O'Mard on romard@koinoniafederation.com and we will resolve the issue. Please note, this work is not optional and there is an expectation that it will be completed. Teachers will all still be working and checking all online submissions on a daily basis and will be communicating with yourselves using the SMH platform.

Children of Key workers and More Vulnerable Children (taken from gov.uk)

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home and every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- 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 upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions for childcare.*
- 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.*
- 5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.*

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: doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare: This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key Public Services: This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and National Government: essential public services such as the payment of benefits.

Food and other necessary goods: This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security: This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport: This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services: This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If we have contacted you because your child has an EHCP, has a social worker or you have contacted us at info@koinoniafederation.com because you are a key worker then school will remain open as normal for your child/ren. This option is your choice. You may choose to keep your child at home some days if you are not working in order to comply with the social distancing expectation. If your child does come to school, I expect your child to come to school like any normal school day, in full school uniform. The day will begin at 0855 and end at the slightly earlier time of 3.15pm. You can decide to send your child in with a packed lunch or we will provide them with a lunch.

If your child does not belong to any of the groups listed above, school will be closed for your child. Please read the attached document: 'A survival guide for parents' for some useful tips during the coming weeks. **Please note, if your child is eligible for free school meals, they are allowed to collect a packed lunch from school between 11:30 and 12 throughout the week.**

I would like to thank you all for your understanding and support during this time. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email romard@koinoniafederation.com if you have any questions.

Yours Sincerely

Mr R.Hussain
Principal