IMPORTANT – CHILD CARE PROVISION AT ST JOSEPH’S FOR KEY WORKERS

Dear Parents,

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.”**

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 the wider 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 also committed to keeping our opening hours from 8.50am to 3.30pm to enable you to keep the country operating.

Furthermore, we will take all practical steps to keep our vulnerable children safe and we will endeavour to provide care, when and if it is needed.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?fbclid=IwAR0bw2mh1vPBfncuKKMfNm0eexgk0q65mvG-esGQBavtsVAe_bcImlBIF9A>

Please complete and return the slip below. As the timescales are so tight, we will be sending this letter on the Parent app and posting on the website. If you know a parent who does not use the app, please can you direct them to this letter for immediate attention. Please could you inform the office by phone or email as well as returning the slip.

Yours sincerely

Mr Turner

PLEASE READ AND RETURN

If your work is critical to the Covid-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed

in the Government document , **and you cannot keep your child safe at home** then please inform the office as soon as possible by completing the slip below and by phone 0151 652 6781 or email schooloffice@stjosephs-birkenhead.wirral.sch.uk

Can I please stress that you should only be requesting for school to care for your child, if

they cannot be safely cared for at home. It is important to remember that the government have

closed the schools in order to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus as this is the best to keep

you and your family safe.

Name of pupil:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Class:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am a key worker employed as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I require a childcare place

Once we have all responses, we will then provide further details to establish patterns and frequency of requirements.