



St. Mary's CE Primary School

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Coronavirus - School Closure for Nursery

Monday 11th January 2021

Dear Nursery Parents,

We are, as a school, acutely aware of the impact of this new national lockdown on children, which will affect pupils in all year groups across the school, both educationally, socially and emotionally. Moving to remote learning is the last thing we wanted to have to do.

We, as a school, are staying open for key worker and vulnerable children, as we have been throughout the pandemic, although recent guidance recommends even then, parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

Revised guidance from the Government on Friday, regarding the opening of Nursery classes in school, is being discussed at a Local Authority level at the moment. Our judgement is that the risk to the school community in opening the nursery has not changed, but we will continue to work with the Local Authority and will communicate any decision as soon as possible.

We understand that having to keep your younger children at home is challenging, that the nursery closure could make it more difficult for you to manage home learning with other children and of course your concerns about the lack of socialisation with other children are quite valid. However, it has become very clear over the past days, that such is the rate of infection, that we would be putting our staff, their families and the wider community at risk by opening the nursery.

We know that the government guidance allows private nurseries and discreet Early Years settings to stay open, but many in that sector are urgently seeking clarification over the science behind that decision as they feel unsafe in their place of work. Our MP Fleur Anderson is also in discussion with the Health Minister as she is concerned about Early Years settings being kept open, meaning staff are at risk and there may be an increase in the spread of the virus.

In conclusion, the Nursery at St. Mary's school will remain closed, but we will keep this under review based on Government legislation and Wandsworth Borough Council advice. Any changes to this, we will of course inform you of immediately.

Best wishes,

Wendy Livingstone/Amanda Bishop
Acting Head Teachers

Vision: *Delivering excellence, allowing all to flourish*
Mission: *Creating a culture of wonder, guided by Christian faith*
Values: *Compassion • Endurance • Thankfulness*