



**St Nicolas and St Mary Church of England
Voluntary Aided Primary School**

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13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus update – Possible school closure

Parents and carers will be aware that, as a nation, we are facing increasing challenges due to the coronavirus pandemic. We receive daily coronavirus updates from the Government and we seek to follow their advice. We have increased hand washing, promoted good general hygiene and followed medical advice.

The school has well-established Emergency Action Plans which covers a whole range of potential challenges including pandemics. In addition we have developed a carefully thought out Education Continuity Plan to enable us to continue, as much as we can, to provide an education for children. Teachers are well-prepared!

We will inform parents by text/email if the school has to close because of staff shortages or if requested to do so by the relevant authorities.

If the school does have to close, we will endeavour to send home:

- All PE kits, coats, lunchboxes, water bottles and other personal belongings;
- Several reading books including children's class bible (for years 3-6);
- Exercise book(s) for children to work in;
- Home learning packs (depending on year groups).

In the event of closure, parents will be asked to:

- Check lost property;
- Collect medicines / inhalers from the school office / medical room;
- Be aware that there may be quite a bit to carry home (bring an empty bag to school!)

During a school closure, staff will be working remotely. They will be preparing work for children to do at home via our website. This will be uploaded on a weekly basis. Most children will also have access to online learning websites. Many educational software companies are looking to provide free online learning resources if schools are closed for an extended period of time. We will provide further links in due course.

We are very aware that some children, and indeed many parents, will be anxious at this time. We would remind everyone that we need to be a 'Tough Tortoise' and 'do the BEST we can'. The BBC produce some very good news reports for children, which can be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround> In addition we hope to upload our very own daily 10 minute 'Awesome Assembly' which children (and parents!) can watch.

There will be many questions that parents will have about the impact of school closure. We hope to send regular updates to parents and carers with further news and information as and when the need arises. Do refer to the latest Parent & Carer Bulletin for more information on a week by week basis. You can continue to email the school office: office@stnm.org.uk throughout any closure and we will do our best to reply and/or forward to the relevant teacher.

An old song from my youth was, 'When the road is rough and steep, fix your eyes upon Jesus...' No-one promised life would be easy but we can, *Journey together* (via the internet and in our thoughts and prayers!), *Guided by God, to do the BEST we can* – whatever is thrown our way!

Kind regards
Mr Etherton
Headteacher