



The Recreation Ground
Off London Road
Stone
Kent
DA9 9DQ

Wednesday, 25 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RESENT - we need to establish if critical key worker children will be attending preschool after our Easter Holidays eg. From Tuesday, 14th April 2020.

Therefore, if you meet the key worker criteria below and would like your child to attend after Easter can you please email the completed questionnaire found at the bottom of this letter to stmarysunder5s@yahoo.co.uk by Friday, 27th March 2020.

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As you are aware, the Government have only just announced guidance of who will be eligible for care at preschool from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. The aim is for as long as is possible to keep the preschool open to help essential services continue if it is viable to do so. Please note this is not a statutory requirement - schools are being asked to help as part of a national response. The Government has made it clear in its guidance regarding key workers: "Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be."

This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

The guidance is clear that schools should reduce the number of children at school and should aim to have no more than 20% of the children in. Therefore we may have to prioritise who is given a place at school.

This guidance states that we should 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 for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
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.

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. This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector
- Education and childcare. This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid19 response
- Public safety and national security. This includes civilians and officers in the police (including key contractors), Fire and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles
- Transport. This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response
- Utilities and Communication. This includes staff needed for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies, to continue during the Covid19 response, as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, services and waste disposal
- Food and other necessary goods. This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution and sale, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g. hygiene, medical etc.)
- Other workers essential to delivering key public services

- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response

Please complete the questionnaire below if you think you meet the above criteria and would like your child to attend preschool. As advised, we will be asking for proof of employment to help us make sure you meet the criteria.

We are asking you not to apply for a place if you can source other child care for you child eg one parent is working from home. We will have to prioritise those children who have two key worker parents and single parent families.

Your child will only need to attend school on the days that you are working and you will be asked to confirm the days that you will need. This will help further reduce number of children attending school.

If you are currently self-isolating and you meet the criteria and would like your child to return to school after their isolation period, then please also complete the information.

We will let you know if your application has been successful and provide you with more information in due course.

Please complete the information by Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and email a copy to [stmarysunder5s@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmarysunder5s@yahoo.co.uk) so that we can get a clear idea of numbers and begin to create a plan. All responses will be via email, so please ensure you leave appropriate email address and check regularly.

Yours sincerely

For and on behalf of St Mary's under 5's Preschool

*A.J. McHattie*

Amanda McHattie (MA)  
Preschool Manager



Here is the link to information for parents regarding school and setting closures.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Please also find here information on key workers.

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

Dear Parent/Carer – please ensure you have read the guidance/criteria above before completing the following questions. As per current guidance from the Government, the list of jobs which fall under the category of Key Worker are as follows:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Your Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(this must be supplied in order that we can respond during out of office hours)

Session/Dates you would like your child to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

1) Does at least one member of your household with carer responsibility for a child at St Mary's under 5's Preschool hold a position that is deemed "key worker"? **Yes / No**

2) Currently, do your family circumstances allow for your child to be appropriately cared for at home while the preschool is not fully operational due to the COVID-19 outbreak?  
**Yes / No**

3) Do you feel it is likely that these circumstances may change in the future? **Yes / No**

If yes, please provide an explanation of the circumstances that may result in your child either requiring access to preschool or no longer requiring provision?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) Does your child(ren) have siblings in other schools/settings? **Yes / No**

If yes, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

5) If your child would need to attend preschool, would you also look to access holiday clubs during the official school holidays? **Yes / No**

6) Does your child have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)? **Yes / No**  
If yes, would you wish them to still attend school/a setting? **Yes / No**

Please email completed forms by end of play today (27/03/20) to [stmarysunder5s@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmarysunder5s@yahoo.co.uk) so that we can get a clear idea of numbers and begin to create a plan. All responses will be via email, so please ensure you leave an email address and check regularly. Thank you