



Together we are exploring our special gifts; Together we are growing towards God

Dear Parents/Carers

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

In response to the government guidance that schools across the country are to close from Friday 20th March, we would like to confirm that St Francis will be closed to the significant majority of students from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Further guidance has been issued by the Department for Education overnight regarding the provision of education for vulnerable children and those of key (critical) workers. The key principles of this guidance are:-

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, **then they should be.**
- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a key (critical) worker, then care in a school will be available for them, **if they cannot be safely cared for at home.**

More details of the key (critical) worker categories can be found on the home page of our website and here:

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

We uphold the Government's and Public Health England's clear message that **home is the safest place for your children.**

If your child does not need specialist support, is not vulnerable or does not have a parent who is a key (critical) worker, as mentioned above, school will be closed from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March for the foreseeable future. However, if you do fall into any of these categories, school will be open from 8am – 6pm. Pupils must attend in school uniform and you will be asked to provide proof of employment to ensure you meet the criteria.

Please note: initially, the school place will be at St Francis. However, you must understand that the Local Authority will be constantly reviewing our situation and will be ready to implement their contingency plan, which will involve a move to a delivery school model. This means that your children will be cared for at another school or setting.

St Francis will continue to communicate with you during the closure period via our school text messaging service.

Parents/carers are advised to use the office email address for general concerns and the home learning email address for anything related to children's learning. Email addresses are as follows:

[office@stfrancisbrad.co.uk](mailto:office@stfrancisbrad.co.uk)

[homelearning@stfrancisbrad.co.uk](mailto:homelearning@stfrancisbrad.co.uk)

Please continue to use the resources provided in the home packs plus the online resources through our website and google classroom (KS2 only) to continue your child's learning in the best way possible.

We will reopen as soon as the government issues this instruction to us. When this is the case, we will inform parents and carers immediately via text message.

We thank our staff for their unwavering team work and commitment. We are indebted to them for all their hard work in making sure the children have continued education from home.

Finally, we thank you for your support and understanding, particularly over the last week. We have very much appreciated your kind words and emails. We hope you and your families remain safe during this difficult and unprecedented time. We will be keeping you all in our prayers.

God bless

(Executive Head)

(Head of School)