



20 March 2020

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School
Hardy Avenue
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 0RH

Email: office@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk
Phone: 01305782600
Website:
<http://www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk/website>

2019/20 IMPORTANT: School Closure & Home Schooling

2019/20 SCHOOL CLOSURE & HOME SCHOOLING

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that, further to the Government's announcement on Wednesday 18th March 2020 and as part of the country's ongoing response to the COVID-19 coronavirus, St. Augustine's will be closing from this afternoon (20th March 2020) until further notice. This is with the exception of children of designated critical workers (key workers) and vulnerable children. A full explanation of a critical worker can be found here:

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

Vulnerable children include those children who have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP), are classified under Child Protection or as a Child-In-Need (CIN) and disabled children.

Please may I remind you of the following: the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear: **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.** That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children **at home, wherever possible**, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who **absolutely** need to attend.

St. Augustine's has extremely hardworking and dedicated members of staff who will try their hardest to support the Government's decision and we will do everything possible to ensure that the school will remain open for these groups of children. However, the virus is critically affecting staffing levels and they could be subject to change at any moment. If staffing levels make it impossible to provide a safe environment for the children, the school will have to close. In addition to this, teachers are providing daily home-schooling links for children at home **as well as** providing educational provision to those children who will still be attending school. I therefore ask you be considerate to staff workload and appreciate that we are all human and trying to make the most of a very difficult situation.

To support you and your child/ren with home schooling during this period of school closure, Teachers have prepared work and engaging activities for your child/ren to complete at home. This work is accessible from the school website under the 'Homeschooling' tab: <http://www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk/homeschooling>. Please encourage your child to complete these daily activities and bring all completed work back into school when we re-open. From

Monday, 23rd March, please follow these steps below to access the home schooling:

1. Type into your internet browser: <http://www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk/homeschooling>
2. Click on your child's year group.
3. Click on date of daily plan.
4. Complete the work set in the 5. Home Schooling exercise book sent home to you on Wednesday, 18th March 2020.
5. Bring Home Schooling exercise book into school when school re-opens.

To further assist you with the home schooling of your child, the following **temporary** email addresses have been set up. Please note the temporary email addresses for Teachers marked with an * below will be accessed by teaching staff daily between 3.30pm and 4.00pm. Teaching staff with an * below are working staff in school and will not be able to respond to any school work queries until 3.30pm. The temporary email addresses of staff not marked below with an * can be contacted during the school day (8.40am to 3.15pm) as these staff are working from home. Mrs Berry and all Senior Leaders (Mrs Bladon, Mrs Gardiner and Mrs Evans) will be in school, however Mrs Gardiner works on a part-time basis.

*Mrs Evans (YR) reception@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk (available between 3.30pm and 4pm).
*Mrs Sloan (Y1) year1@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk (available between 3.30pm and 4pm)
Mrs Tonkin (Y2) year2@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk (available between 8.40am and 3.15pm)
Miss Lane (Y3) year3@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk (available between 8.40am and 3.15pm)
*Mrs Harding (Y4) year4@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk (available between 3.30pm and 4pm)
Mrs Baskerville (Y5) year5@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk (available between 8.40am & 3.15pm **Mon to Wed**)
*Mr Dennis (Y5) year5@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk (available between 3.30 and 4pm Thurs & Fri)
*Mr Trevett (Y6) year6@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk (available between 3.30pm and 4pm)
Mrs Gardiner (Inclusion Manager - SEND & Pupil Premium Support)
send@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk
Mrs Berry (Headteacher) office@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk
Mrs Berry (Designated Safeguarding Lead) safeguarding@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk

To support us further with approximate numbers of children attending school on Monday, 23rd March, please can you complete the form below **by 1.30pm today**. Please refer to the Government's latest guidance.

I appreciate that this might not be possible for some parents/guardians as this is a quick turnaround of information, so please do not worry if you have not managed to respond, we are simply trying our best to establish approximate numbers of children. **If you work shifts, please can you indicate in the box below, the days that you are going to be sending your child in during the forthcoming week.** Any information you can provide us with, the better prepared we can be to support children on Monday.

If your child will attend school the timings of the school day will remain the same. The school will open via normal entry routes at 8.40am and the children will exit via normal exit routes at 3.15pm. Children are required to wear school uniform and bring PE kit in as usual. If you are planning to send your child into school and have not been contacted by a member of SLT, please can you send them into school with a packed lunch and a drink. There will be no hot food served during this period of closure. Please also note there will be no afterschool clubs provided at this time. If you require wrap-around care please contact Allsorts (01305 750444).

Thank you very much for your continued support and understanding during this difficult period of time.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Berry
Headteacher