



St. Leonard's CE (A) First School

'From a tiny spark to a bright flame'

'In him was life: and life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness'. (John 1:2-5)

4th January 2021

Dear parents/carers,

School closure - Provision of care for the children of key workers

As you will be aware the Prime Minister addressed the nation this evening with the sad news of the latest lockdown measures. School staff had worked hard in the last few days to produce risk assessments to allow children to return and I'm proud to say that they were (with increased measures) prepared to come into school despite advice from teaching unions. However, this is not to be and we must now take every action to keep our school community safe.

School will now be closed to the majority of children from tomorrow until at least February Half Term and all learning will be carried out remotely through our online learning platforms 'seesaw' and Microsoft Teams'. Children will be allocated text books and physical resources to support their learning. We want to be able to work very closely alongside parents during this period to ensure that your children continue to achieve their potential. Our data from the Autumn Term shows that our pupils had caught up with their learning and we must make sure with your support that this continues. Remote learning will now be compulsory and children will be expected to engage with 3 hours of learning each day. We are fully aware that all parents are working in different circumstances and we will do all we can to support you. We must however adhere to Government policy on following up non engagement with remote learning.

The Government has requested that school places are available for vulnerable pupils and those of key workers.

This provision will commence at St Leonard's from Wednesday 6th January 2021 allowing school staff to allocate places.

St Leonard's will allocate places for children where both parents are key workers or where a family has a single parent who is a key worker. I must stress that you should only ask for a place for your child if you have no other alternative. These measures are designed to impact on what is an escalating situation and we must all work together to ensure the spread of the virus is contained. If we consider your child to be vulnerable we will contact you separately to discuss this with you.

Please click on the link below to look at the guidance on who meets the criteria for a key worker.

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

If you feel that both parents meet the criteria or as a single parent you meet the criteria and would like to request a place for your child could you please email headteacher@st-leonards-ipstones.staffs.sch.uk

I will need you to state which days and hours you will need for your child. Your child should only be attending school during the hours in which you are working. I will also need evidence of your job role and the hours you currently work.

Please could I ask that this information is in my mail box by 9am tomorrow to allow us to commence this provision for Wednesday.

Thank you for your continued support. Your children have shown a true resilience over the last term and we have every faith in them and you to continue their learning journey remotely. School staff will set work on the see saw platform tomorrow morning by 10am and you will receive a pack of information during the day to help your child to log into Microsoft Teams. Ready for a meet and greet session on Wednesday morning with their teacher. Miss Torr will be preparing a tutorial to support you all. We will also be arranging delivery or collection of your child's learning materials.

Please could I also ask that if you haven't logged onto seesaw or are having any difficulties with that you should contact the office as a matter of urgency. In addition, if you do not have a device for your child to access remote learning you should also contact the office to discuss the loan of school equipment.

We are here to support you. Please contact us if you need anything at all.

Take care and stay safe.

God Bless

Kelly Stanesby
Headteacher