



**ST STEPHENS COMMUNITY ACADEMY**  
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Head Teacher: Maura Furber

**'Embracing Learning.  
Inspiring Ambition.  
Celebrating Individuality'**

04.01.2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**St Stephens will be closed to ALL pupils (except those attending the Area Resource Base) on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to enable staff to plan, co-ordinate and organise provision. Many thanks for your consideration with this –the logistics are quite time consuming as you can imagine.**

I am writing this with reference to the government guidance issued this evening @8p.m. The government has asked that PARENTS KEEP CHILDREN AT HOME, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, and asked schools to **remain open ONLY for those children who ABSOLUTELY need to attend and Pre- School pupils**. The aim is to keep the numbers of children coming into schools to an absolute minimum. However, there is a recognition that parents who fulfil a role in key services MAY require childcare and schools will remain open as long as possible to ensure provision for these families. 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.

**Remember:** The advice is that if you can safely keep your children at home you should do.

To this end, we have initially to prioritise families where **BOTH parents/carers are key workers (or the sole parent/carer is).**

**Health and social care:** This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

**Education and childcare:** This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

**Key public services:** This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

**Local and national government:** This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies.



**Food and other necessary goods:** This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

**Public safety and national security:** This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

**Transport:** This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

**Utilities, communication and financial services:** This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

**If you think you fall within the critical categories above you should confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.**

Please respect the fact that we will do all we can to ensure provision, but we will undoubtedly find this increasingly difficult as our availability of staff reduces over coming days/weeks, and for that reason we ask that you send children only when absolutely necessary.

To allow us to **plan for provision from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January onwards**, please **contact me ASAP via the school email: [ststephens@andaras.org](mailto:ststephens@andaras.org) if you believe you are a Key Worker.** We appreciate you may not yet have plans in place and these may be subject to change, but a prompt reply to enable us to plan as far as possible is very much appreciated.

Many thanks for your support –not quite the New Year we were hoping for but if anyone can get through this 'Team St Stephens' can!

Kindest regards

*Maura Furber*

Headteacher.

