



## St. Margaret's Church of England Primary School

School Close  
Tintinhull, Yeovil  
Somerset  
BA22 8PX

Telephone: (01935) 822686

Fax: (01935) 823643

Email: [sch.364@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:sch.364@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

[www.stmargaretsceva.com](http://www.stmargaretsceva.com)

### Learning for Life

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will know, schools have been directed to close today and remain closed until further notice **except for children of key workers and vulnerable children**, as part of the country's ongoing response to COVID-19 (coronavirus).

I am writing to confirm that at ten past midnight today, the UK Government issued the following guidance -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision>

For a paper copy of this guidance, please see the school office. I have highlighted some key points below;

### GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE -

The government is asking "parents to keep their children at home, **wherever possible**, and asked schools to remain open **only** for those children **who absolutely need to attend.**"

"It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society."

"Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a **limited number** of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and **cannot be safely cared for** at home."

"Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans."



“Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below ([in the linked document](#)).

Many parents working in these sectors **may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**”

“Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- 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 critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
- 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.
- 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.
- Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below ([in the linked document](#)), and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision.”

Further advice and guidance for parents and carers is available 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>

### ST MARGARET’S RESPONSE -

These are exponential times and in such times we will do **everything** we can to stand together with our community. To this end, our School **WILL REMAIN OPEN AND DELIVER PROVISION FOR THE CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS who have NO OTHER OPTIONS OPEN TO THEM.** We are currently trying to organise extended care and we will update you as soon as information is available later today.

We commit to sustaining this provision for as long as required, Monday to Friday including through the upcoming Easter Holidays. We will do **everything** we can to help this national effort.

If you are a key worker and planning to use our provision, please contact us **URGENTLY** via email at – [sch.364@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:sch.364@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.



All clubs will be cancelled along with any invitational events the children may have received. KS1 and KS2 SATs, Year 1 phonics tests and the Year 4 times tables assessment have also been cancelled.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

I thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Ms H Robinson  
Headteacher

