

# Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



19 March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

## Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories. Please email [reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk) confirming your child's name and year group and which category your child is in. We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to.

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by emailing all parents when we have more information.

## What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

- Work will be set by class teachers on the Show My Homework app. All students have been reissued with passwords and shown how to access this on their devices. Please encourage your child to complete this work.
- Additional resources have been posted on the school website – [www.msj.bolton.sch.uk](http://www.msj.bolton.sch.uk) On the home screen you will see a yellow box which directs you to student resources.
- For further information about home study please contact the relevant class teacher or [homestudy@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:homestudy@msj.bolton.sch.uk)
- For any students struggling with internet access, work packs have been created and can be collected from school on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March from Main Reception from 9am until 3pm.
- Please monitor the school website, your email and Twitter for regular updates.

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.

### **What we won't be able to go ahead with**

All school trips and events have been postponed until further notice.

Yesterday the Government confirmed that secondary school exams wouldn't go ahead. As soon as I have more information about this I will share it with you. However please reassure your children that they will get the qualifications they need. I have addressed Year 11 pupils today to reassure them and try to alleviate their anxieties at this difficult time.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via [headteacher@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@msj.bolton.sch.uk)

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

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Devany  
Headteacher