

1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you all for the continuing messages of support and gratitude that we have received. We are making decisions without any precedent to rely upon and which may carry great significance, and your positive responses are therefore very much valued and appreciated. The detailed guidance available from the government for schools, and the population in general, have changed very little since we last wrote on 20<sup>th</sup> March and are summarised below:

*As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing. And 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.***

*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.*

***Please, therefore, follow these key principles:***

***If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.***

***If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:***

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

If you are a Key Worker who needs to access this provision for your child / children and have not already contacted us please make contact with Mrs Smith (Deputy Headteacher) at [smithm@sgsce.co.uk](mailto:smithm@sgsce.co.uk) or call the school office on 01474 533082. Please note provision for after the school holidays will be offered from the St George's site however, any need for Easter holiday provision will be offered from the Aletheia Trust 'hub' site at Stone St Mary CE School, Hayes Rd, Stone, Dartford DA9 9EF.

It now seems quite apparent that students will not return to school after the Easter break and indeed quite possibly not for some time. We are therefore currently reviewing the curriculum provision for all students in an attempt to ensure greater sustainability over time. This has been informed by the opinion of staff, parents and children. We will adjust the timetable of all students by reducing the number of formal lessons and providing some more time for well-being activities and for guided reading. We will write over the Easter holiday with more precise detail for each Year Group.

We have yet to receive any further information from Ofqual in respect of the assessment plans to replace the exam season scheduled this summer for Years 11-13. We reaffirm our commitment to update all parents and students from these year groups as soon as we know something tangible.

Mrs Smith has today contacted all parents where we know of entitlement to Free School Meals to inform them of the voucher scheme that will be in operation from Term 5. If your circumstances have changed, as they have for many, and you now think you may be eligible for this support please visit our website to access the link / details for making an application. If in any doubt please email the school office at [office@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk)

Please be assured that the wellbeing of our school community continues to be our highest priority and we will endeavour to respond effectively and efficiently to each new scenario that this unprecedented situation presents.

Wishing you all the safest Easter possible.



Stephen Carey  
Executive Headteacher



Matthew Lillie  
Head of Secondary School