

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The definitive list of 'key workers' was published in the early hours by the government and has caused much upheaval to plans that schools had currently put in place.

We are all aware that the government has imposed social distancing and there is an enforced closure of schools for the majority of the population.

Parents need to restrict the contact that children have and I also have to ensure that my staff have limited contact with others, if we are to minimise the spread of this virus and ultimately save lives.

We are already acutely aware that the rise of cases and deaths in London is escalating beyond the capacity of our NHS and therefore we MUST do everything within our power to STOP the infection of others.

St James the Great will not be able to offer emergency childcare for every parent who is a 'key worker' as it would be unsafe and I am not willing to jeopardise the health of the children in my care, their families and my staff.

Parents who are required to travel to work (we will be requiring proof of this) and who have no-one else at home (husband, wife, partner, extended family, older siblings) will be offered a place and we will need to know by 12pm today if you are taking up this offer.

Ultimately, the care will only be for the children whose parents have no other choice but to send their children to school for childcare. I know, from speaking to many of you, that this is something that is causing great concern as you are already extremely worried about the pressures that the NHS is facing and you would, if you have any other choice, wish to protect your children and the wider public from further infection.

Thanking you for your continued support.

Denis O'Regan