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Dear Parents/ Carers,

It was with a heavy heart that I wrote to you last night to share information regarding the closure of St Aloysius, due to the national lockdown imposed by the government. I would like to start by offering my sympathy to you and your families for the inconvenience caused by the Prime Minister's late announcement. I know how challenging today will have been for you, as parents, to arrange childcare at such short notice and I appreciate how disappointed our children must be to wake up and find out that they could no longer return to school today. I share in your frustration as a parent myself, I too feel saddened that my own children cannot see their teachers and friends today, and as Headteacher of St Aloysius, I'm frustrated that school plans have also had to change quickly in response to the ever-changing restrictions.

Although the announcement may have caused a feeling of unsettlement and anxiety among many people, as a school, we are as prepared as we possibly can be for this situation, and I am confident that we can offer the children at St Aloysius high quality remote learning package and an excellent support network. As a school, we are fully committed to working with all members of our school community to help everyone get through the coming weeks and months ahead.

#### **Provision for critical workers and vulnerable children**

Yesterday we asked you to contact us to let us know that if you require our school for childcare. Leaders are reviewing this list today and tomorrow and we will offer long term places to parents by later in the week. The list will be reviewed on a weekly basis, however, please note places will be limited and families where both parents are key workers or single parent families will take priority. At present we have had far more requests that we can offer places. **I am asking you to only request a place if it is essential and you have no other childcare option.** Myself and leaders may contact parents who have requested a place to discuss if this is the only childcare option available to you. Please remember that the national guidance is that you stay at home and only use this facility if you require essential childcare. **Tomorrow, school will be open to those children who have attended today if after careful consideration you still require this service.**

#### **Breakfast Club and After School Club for those children in school**

The after school club and breakfast club will not continue next week. This is because I need staff to cover other roles in school. This week it is available from 8am (Breakfast Club) and After School Club (5pm).

#### **Remote Learning**

St Aloysius blended learning plan will commence via Google Classroom on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January for all year groups. We have worked extremely hard since September to ensure our plan is suitable for all children who are required to learn from home. Teachers will upload meaningful, high quality and manageable lessons to the Google platform. You will be provided with an overview on a weekly basis which will outline the expectations for the week. Staff will also hold touching base sessions via Google. If you require a device for your child then please let us know and we will try to support you with this. A device will be provided to you in the coming days. **Stationery packs and exercise books will also be available from school tomorrow, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, for you to collect.** The learning packs will be available for all children. They will be available to pick up between **9.30 am-2.30 pm** via the school offices.

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

Free school meal vouchers will be available for those parents who have a child entitled to free school meals who is not attending school. The system that was used over the Christmas break called Wonde will be used. As this system is already set up with current contact details of those parents who are eligible, there isn't anything to do for parents. Vouchers will be emailed to you in the next few days. The vouchers will then be sent to you on a weekly basis. I will share further information with you when I have it available.

### **Communication and Support**

I will continue to communicate regularly with you over the coming days. Your child's class teacher will also be in contact regularly to support your child in any way that they can.

Our school office will continue to be open every day Monday-Friday between the hours of 8.00am-4pm. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with school, should you require any assistance.

Thank you for being so patient, supportive and understanding as we deal with this very 'last minute' but understandable announcement from the Prime Minister. Thank you also to the staff at St Aloysius for their dedication to our school. Everything we do as a staff team is with the health and happiness of your child at heart. They are beacons of light and hope for our future, and we will ensure we keep that light shining bright even in the most uncertain of times.

Yours Sincerely

Nick Conway