22nd March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, our school and nursery closed on Friday 20th March 2020 following government recommendations to slow the spread of COVID 19 amongst the population.

South Lanarkshire Council have updated their contingency planning to provide emergency childcare provision for the children of Category 1 workers and emergency service workers. The following workers fall into this Category:

***\*Health and Care workers directly supporting COVID response***

***\*Health and Care workers supporting life threatening emergency work, as well as critical primary and community care provisions***

***\*Key workers within the*** ***Energy supply chain***

**\*S*taff providing childcare for other Category 1 staff,*** ***Police, Fire and Rescue, Ambulance and Prison Service.***

Following local authority and government guidance we are only accepting children who are well and healthy and **whose parents are both due to work and are listed as Category 1 or emergency service workers (ie, NHS staff, police, fire and rescue, ambulance or prison service) and who cannot secure personal, alternative childcare arrangements.**

Childcare will be provided for the children of Category 1 and emergency services workers ONLY (this applies to **both** parents) between 9am and 3pm. Those in this position should follow the procedures below:

* Children should be brought to the main entrance of either the school or nursery at 9am
* Adults will be required to give an indication of when their shift ends and whether their child will be collected before 3pm.
* Please note our playground will not be open before 9am

**Guidelines for those children coming in**

* School children will wash their hands in the toilet located in the foyer and then meet in the dining hall.
* Nursery children will wash their hands at the sinks in the nursery playroom.
* Children should wear their own clothes and should not bring any items from home (ie, toys, electronic equipment, mobile phones, pencil cases). They **should not** bring a school bag.
* Please ensure long hair is tied back.
* Water bottles should be brought to school or nursery and taken home at the end of the day.
* Children will work on various activities some of which are outlined in their Home Learning Sheets. They may also be outside and should come to school and nursery with appropriate clothing – a waterproof jacket and gloves essential. Children should bring a change of shoes with them.

**Lunch time**

* There will be a limited lunch menu on offer.
* Children attending who are entitled to a free school meal will have a lunch provided for them
* If your child is not entitled to a free school meal, where possible they should come with a packed lunch. If this is not possible, they will be able to purchase a lunch at a cost of £1.70.
* Packed lunch should be in a carrier bag that can then be disposed of.
* Those children not attending school tomorrow because they are being cared for at home but who fall in to the category of being entitled to a Free Meal can come to school at 12.15pm for their lunch – they should be accompanied by an adult. This will need to be ordered and we ask that if you fall into this category, you please telephone the school tomorrow morning and place your order. Adults accompanying children will be able to have a lunch.
* Children will be dismissed via the main entrance of either the school or nursery at 3pm. Adults should wait outside the school and nursery building in the playground. Please ensure that all children are picked up promptly at 3pm, if not earlier.

We are in a period of national emergency and I would appreciate your co-operation with these measures at this challenging time. Reducing contact is crucial and I would urge that if you are able to keep your child at home, you should. We will continue to post any updates on our App, Twitter and Facebook page.

On behalf of all the staff at St Elizabeth’s, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you all good health in the coming weeks.

Kind Regards,

**Christine MacPhee**

Head Teacher