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Dear parent/carer,

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](#).

Following the Prime Minister's briefing last night (22.03.20) relating to 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**. If one parent is able to work from home or is not working in a critical sector, fighting against COVID-19, then your child should adhere to social distancing measures and remain at home.

Please be mindful that the government are saying;

"Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be."

Can I thank key worker parents, who have arranged alternative child care instead of sending their child into school. I appreciate that this can sometimes be challenging, but this will certainly help in the fight against the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

All members of the staff at St Mary Magdalen's would like to assure you that they are committed to provide whatever is feasible during this challenging period to support our children and their families. However, it is also important to acknowledge that they too are members of families and that their health alongside the health of their family, has to be a major consideration when looking at school provision during this challenging period. School will remain open only if health and safety standards can be maintained. If these standards are compromised in any way, and the school has to close, then further information will be provided to you regarding local key worker hubs provided by Durham Local Authority.

Please all stay safe and thank you in anticipation of your cooperation.

God's Blessings on you all.

Mr. L.J. Duncan

