



'Thy Word Is a Lamp To My Feet And a Light To My Path'
Psalm 119 v 105

St Mark's Church of England Early Years & Primary School

18th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are well.

I start this letter with an apology for leaving many of you in a very difficult situation. However, As you can imagine, the guidance released on Monday night had a huge impact on our staff, and I was left with no option but to close the school.

Several supply cover agencies were contacted but they were unable to provide cover. The agency we regularly use kindly took time to e-mail us to apologise for the lack of support in these difficult times.

I have discussed all staff self-isolating with Public Health England. None of the staff were showing symptoms themselves but as they met the new criteria for self-isolation set out by the Government, they took the responsible decision to stay at home. Inevitably, they would have been in contact with children throughout the day on Monday. Public Health England have said that there was no risk to anyone in school.

This morning a further 7 members of staff have reported that they were advised to self-isolate due either to their underlying health issues, members of their households displaying symptoms of the virus or them having a high fever. This brings the total number of staff absent to 16 which is more than half of my staff team and as I am unable to find appropriate cover I will have to keep the school closed.

To date we have had no information from the government regarding SATs. We advise that you complete the work set on the Home Learning pages on the website and use the blog to communicate with teaching staff.

I would like to thank those of you who have already been in to collect work for your children and for your kind words of support during these unprecedented times. I am happy to report that Reverend Trevor from St Mark's Church calls us on a daily basis and is praying for the whole school community.

We will continue to send updates via school ping and on our website so please do look at these regularly.

Yours sincerely

Martha Braithwaite
Head Teacher