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Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs who have no family members to support them with childcare.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories. We would ask you to email the office with your:

Child's name; Class: your occupation and any relevant details

We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by updating you on Parent Mail/ Website.

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

Staff have provided the following to ensure continued learning:

UKS2 will be sending home a letter giving detail regarding work put together in their packs

LKS2 will again provide a letter with a list of resources and recommended activities

KS1 will provide a letter entailing work for Yr 2 in their packs and advice for Yr 1

FS2 will also provide a letter with ideas and practical activities

Please find attached another sheet with support from the BBC and other providers that might also be of use to you.

If you have any concerns please get in touch with the school office.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

Unfortunately that we won't be able to go ahead with

School trips

Breakfast or after-school clubs

Events

Internal exams or tests

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

Remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.



Nuala Oster

What schools should consider relating to the announcement made by the Government 18.03.2020

Continuing learning

The BBC have announced an educational programme to begin from Monday 23rd March 2020. Lessons, podcasts and interactive services will be available.

Many schools have learning platforms where parents can access learning activities. It would be useful to refresh these in the event of extended closures. Schools may wish to include extended projects and age specific learning tasks.

Schools may signpost to other online learning sites that allow work to be self-marked or where sites test learning, instant feedback is provided.

*If schools decide on an 'interactive service,' i.e. where staff engage with pupils and students by email or through a learning platform, they should ensure internet safety policies include these working practices. All staff and Parents need to be aware of these policies.

Some companies who offer school resources are waiving payment to schools and parents so that they can access their resources. Such sites include;

<https://whiterosemaths.com/>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/>

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources>

<https://schoolchoiceweek.com/37-free-online-resources-for-schools-shifting-online-during-coronavirus/>

Other sites that provide good learning resources include;

All Key Stages

<https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/resources-list-for-home-learning>

This is a shared site that has contributions from schools across the country. This site has been developed in response to schools needing to provide ideas about home learning. It covers all ages and all subjects.

Key Stage 1 and 2

BBC Bitesize- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>

This covers both key stage 1 (KS1) and KS2 (KS2) for a wide range of subjects

Woodlands Primary School - <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/>

This has fantastic interactive resources across a range of subjects.

The National Numeracy Website - <https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/>

This is a really good website with lots of useful resources. It is designed to raise standards of numeracy across the country for both children and adults and it has specific areas for parents who want to help their children.

Key Stage 3 and 4

We don't yet have information about how GCSE's grades will be awarded. However, in order for schools to support the ambition for students it will be necessary to provide support and study activities. Many secondary schools use their own learning platforms and provision through 'show my homework.'

Other interactive sites include;

<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/>

Secondary school Maths teaching resources and learning.

<http://www.chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk/MainFolder/Krystal/KS3-REVISION/SCIENCE-2016-17/Science-Key-Stage-3-Revision-Materials.pdf>

Science activities at Key Stage 3

<https://www.stemcrew.org/resources/>

Free resources and projects for Key Stage 3 and 4

Continue Communication about learning and closures

Parents and carers do use school's web-sites to keep updated about the learning that their children can complete. It may be useful for schools to declare when there will be a refresh of learning activities for pupils.

In the event of enforced closure being lifted it may not be the case that all schools reopen at the same time. Schools will use the current system of communicating closures to parents. It would be advisable for schools to remind parents about these procedures.

****To Note***

Schools should not rely on staff who are self-isolating or working from home to be available to parents as staff may contract the virus and therefore not be available. Parents are not required to know the status of staff. Schools can still operate the staff absence policy whereby staff alert their manager/ Headteacher that they are 'unfit for work.' The Headteacher, or designated person will know how many staff are affected. In the event of the extended closure being lifted, Head teachers will need to make local decisions based on the number of staff who are fit for work.