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19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## **School will be closed until further notice**

Dear parents/carers,

### **Re: Coronavirus update – school closure**

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

**Children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.** This measure has been put in place to limit social contact and slow the spread of coronavirus.

We are running on a skeleton staff as adults in the school are going down with possible symptoms or are having to self-isolate.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what the key worker list 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. Both parents must hold key worker roles. You will have to present evidence of this and that your normal child care plans cannot apply. Contact the school office if you feel that your child meets the criteria. We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to.

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 email, text and on our 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.

- All children have learning packs which can be collected from the school, if you haven't done so already.
- We will continue to update learning resources and notify you through our website.
- Where possible we will connect using Zoom (a virtual meeting platform)
- There is a list of suitable websites for you to visit on our school website.

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.

### **What we won't be able to go ahead with**

- School trips
- Breakfast or after-school clubs
- Events
- Internal exams or tests (like the SATs, phonic screening and times tables check)

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of parents who are both key workers (e.g. The Armed Services, NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs. Both parents will need to provide evidence that they are both key workers and there are no other relatives or friends who provide child care. We will not provide child care if you are working from home or do not work.

### **These measures have been put in place to reduce the spread of the virus.**

If your child has been off school or sent home, you will still need to self-isolate for 14 days. They will not be allowed in school.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience 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.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via the school office.

And 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.

Yours sincerely,

*HJ McCarney*

Mrs HJ McCarney  
Executive Headteacher