

Thursday March 19th 2020

Dear Parents,

Latest Advice on School Closures

The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, announced last night that from Friday March 20th schools will be closed to **most pupils**.

Schools will therefore remain open from next week (Monday 23rd March) for pupils whose parents are key workers. We are waiting for government clarification (we have been promised that it will be sent today) on which workers are 'key workers'. Once we get that definitive list of key workers, we will be sending you a link to a survey monkey where you can state whether you are one of those key workers. There will be other questions about the name of your employer and child's year group. Once we have this information we will know which pupils are eligible to attend school next week should you wish to send them. You may have other arrangements in place and prefer to keep your child at home- you do not have to send them to school. When we know which children are eligible to attend, we will inform those parents of arrangements for next week. It is anticipated that the school day will look the same i.e. 8.50 a.m. -3.15 p.m. Monday –Friday.

For those pupils in receipt of free school meals (pupil premium not universal free school meals), the local authority is currently working on how to ensure those pupils still receive support e.g. shopping vouchers. We will have more clarity on this by tomorrow.

Gavin Williamson also confirmed that there will be no examinations this year. That does mean that the Y6 pupils will not take their SATs this year but there will be some form of teacher assessment for pupils to take onto their new secondary school. Again, we are waiting to find out more details on this assessment. I will keep you informed through the website as and when we get the information.

The teachers will be sending out packs of work for the children to do whilst they are at home. The packs include log-ins and passwords. For those pupils who are absent, families have been contacted so that packs can be collected or delivered. Thank you very much for your offers of help to ensure all pupils get their packs.

As I said, these are uncharted waters for all of us: the situation is changing rapidly and we are receiving information on a staggered basis. I do appreciate the patience you have demonstrated and your understanding that we are only able to give answers when we have the information ourselves.

I am grateful to the teachers and all support staff for their resilience and dedication during the difficult week we have experienced and know I can rely on them in the weeks to come.

The school has seemed very different this week with fewer children in classes each day, and the yard much quieter than usual each morning. We wish you, your families and your children good health and pray for a full and vibrant school once again in the hopefully not too distant future.

With all our good wishes,

N. Park and staff.