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20/3/20

Dear Parents / Carers,

At the end of the school day today we will close until further notice. The school will only be open to children in certain vulnerable groups and the children of key workers for whom other care arrangements can not be made. Children in vulnerable groups will have been contacted today. The purpose of the closures is to minimise social contact to limit the risk of spreading the virus so key workers' children should not be sent to school if there is any other arrangement that can be made. Involving elderly grandparents in care arrangements is strongly discouraged. We have attempted to make contact with all families today to find out if they fall into one of the key worker categories and if they will require any day care arrangements at the school. If you were not contacted but feel you do fit into a key worker category please contact us as soon as you can. The key worker groups are:

Health & Social Care
Education
Key public services
Some local government officers
Food production, delivery or sale of food products
Emergency services
Military personnel
Transport System workers
Utility workers
Communication and financial services

The full document can be viewed through a link on the home page of the school website.

The school website will be the main source of communication in the coming weeks. Each class will have learning tasks set for them and it is expected that all children keep up with their learning in this way. For children who cannot access their learning in this way alternative arrangements involving actual paperwork will be provided either at school today or will be delivered to your address early next week. The school office will be manned during school hours in the next few weeks, including the period that was intended to be school holidays. The school mobile number is 07422938855.

We will attempt to make contact with families while this emergency goes on to check if any new needs have arisen since we last saw the children. If anybody in your household develops symptoms of a new persistent cough or a fever the government guidelines on self isolation should be followed. While the majority of children are not at school their social contact should be strictly limited. This may increase the amount of contact through social media. Please be extra stringent during this time to ensure that your child is using social media responsibly. We are working closely with our catering provider to arrange how we can ensure that food is made available to children who qualify for free school meals. The most likely solution will be grab bag lunches which can be left near the school office for families to collect. We will text families eligible for free school meals on Monday to inform them of the agreed arrangements. If you are self isolating or cannot make it to school we will do our best to deliver the food but we cannot promise this as our staffing levels will be greatly reduced during this time. If your financial circumstances change due to the economic downturn associated with the virus please contact the school and we will do what we can to help.

Children who need to come to school will not need to wear school uniform but should have some kind of PE kit available as well as the clothes that they arrive in. Entrance to the school building will only be through the main doors by the office. Children will be able to arrive at the normal time and will need to be collected at 3.30. We will not be able to provide the Breakfast Club facility for the time being. We expect that children in school will be able to have a meal provided for them. The normal procedures around paying for school meals will apply. Packed lunch should be brought by children who will not be taking a school meal.

We are very sorry that such extreme measures have had to be taken and understand that this is a very difficult time for all people in our society. Please remember in your prayers all of the key workers, including our school staff, who are going above and beyond expectations in order to serve our society. We have no idea how long this period of closure will last. For all our sakes please keep to advice around social distancing so that risk is minimised for all.

Best wishes and keep safe

BJ Gill