

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

I'm now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children from today until further notice.**

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

That is why the government has asked parents to **keep their children at home**, wherever possible, and has asked schools to remain open only for those children who **absolutely need to attend.**

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. However, the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

- Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, those with child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.
- Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors as outlined on the government website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>)
Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

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 whilst it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by text and also through updates on our website.

Student home learning

- Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn. We have made work available, please see the attached guidance.
- If you need to contact the school use the contact details found on the website.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. However, during such times and due to school closures it is important that we ensure parents/carers know who to contact if they are concerned about the welfare or safety of a child. Our contact details can be found on our school web-site.

Free School Meals

If your child usually receives free school meals and is attending school next week we will be providing those meals. For any other students who are free school meals there will be a packed lunch provided that students can come and collect at 12:00pm daily. The government has further announcements to make regarding the free school meals provision and we will update you when this changes.

You can find all information relating to the Coronavirus at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>. There is guidance for parents/carers at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>.

I am aware that this is a difficult time for everyone and we will endeavour to do our best to support our students for the duration of this national crisis.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Reynolds'.

Mrs A Reynolds
Principal