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Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils**

I am 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**. This is to reduce the spread of the virus as much as possible by reducing the numbers of children and staff in schools to a minimum.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open with a skeleton staff to look after children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services), children with an EHCP and children with a named social worker.

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 be in one of these categories. You can do this by completing the form below.

**Both parents/carers will need to be key workers unless you are a single key worker parent.**

We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to and will require proof of employment. Some parents whose children fall in to these categories may be able to make arrangements for their children not to be in school and this is helpful as it is important that we reduce numbers as far as possible.

**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.

**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 by:

- Updating information to the school website to guide parents to useful activities that can be done at home
- You do not need to return work completed in the work packs that have been sent home. We will seek to make further activities available over time.
- We hope to keep the school office open for urgent messages

If your child is entitled to free school meals we will 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 that will enable us to issue vouchers. It is our understanding at this time that vouchers will only be provided for pupils with a registered entitlement to FSM.

**As school is closed, all usual school activities such as school trips, breakfast and after school clubs are cancelled.**

This is as much as we know at the moment 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 this is a national emergency. We will continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

**It is important that families of the children coming in to school continue to follow advice on self-isolation if any members of the family show symptoms. You must maintain the full 14 day period of isolation and ensure that children are not sent back into school before this.**

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

**In addition, please bear in mind that this childcare provision for key workers will remain subject to the school having sufficient staff available to enable them to remain open.**

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can. This is such a challenging time for us all and we wish all our families good health in the difficult weeks ahead.

Mrs. A.T. Evans  
(Acting Headteacher)

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**REPLY SLIP**

**Name of pupil: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_**

**I am not a key worker and my child will remain at home until school re-opens.**

**I am a key worker employed as \_\_\_\_\_**

**Place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_**

**I do / do not require a childcare place (please delete as applicable)**

**SCHOOL OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Evidence of employment checked and photocopied**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Member of staff to sign**