

19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

School Closure: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Yesterday evening the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education announced that as of this Friday, 20th March, all schools - including ours - in England and Wales would close until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I am sure most of you will have questions and whilst we do not have all the answers at the moment, we will share with you what we do know and keep you updated as and when we receive new information.

In line with the announcement we will close the school at the end of the school day tomorrow, Friday 20th March. As yet we do not know when we will re-open. We will inform you of this date when we know.

We have been planning for this eventuality and below you will find the details necessary to continue your child's education:

Children of Key Workers

As of Monday, 23 March 2020, we have been told that schools should, where possible, create childcare provision for the essential key workers as identified by the government. At the time of writing this letter we do not know who these key workers are. However, when the list is published, we will ask you if you qualify for this limited provision. This will not be a normal school day. It is a basic childcare provision. Please note, many of our colleagues are self-isolating and have their own families that need their support in this difficult time so we have to establish the staff levels that are available to us on Monday. Once we know all this information we will communicate if/how this child care provision will work.

In order to plan for this we are asking that, should you be one of the essential and listed key workers, you complete the form that is available on the Home Learning page and submit it no later than 3pm on Friday 20 March 2020. You will be able to book your child in for morning and/or afternoon sessions. It is important that we know which children are attending school each day. The form will cover the two week period leading up to the Easter holidays. We will contact those of you who access this form to confirm whether or not the childcare provision will be available in our academy. Please note that at this time we are not able to make provision for nursery children, only those in Reception to Year 6.

Vulnerable Children

The school may also open to vulnerable children, dependent upon staffing levels. These families will be contacted by assigned contacts in school to discuss if they require this very limited provision.

Home Learning

We previously communicated to you that we would be providing an electronic platform for learning should such an event occur.

We appreciate that our youngest children will not access elearning resources in the same way as children in the later years and that it will be mainly parents who are accessing materials on behalf of their child. For this reason, we have created a Home Learning website www.phl.outwood.com which provides such a service.

On this site we have uploaded a number of home learning activities based around children's stories. The site also includes a video of each story being told.

We will continue to upload video lessons and activities throughout the closure period.

We are mindful of the fact that not all families will have internet access and therefore a range of activities have also been provided within the Home Learning booklet that your child has brought home with this letter. A copy of this is also on the website.

Free School Meals

We will write to those eligible for Free School Meals separately to detail the arrangements we have made for each academy. Please be assured that it is our intention to provide financial support for lunches at the earliest opportunity.

Examinations

We know very little at the moment except that the Secretary of State for Education has confirmed that there will be no primary testing this academic year.

Reporting Confirmed Coronavirus Cases

If your child or someone who lives in your household receives a confirmed diagnosis of Coronavirus, we are asking that you let us know this by completing the form that you can find on the 'Home Learning' page titled 'Reporting Coronavirus'.

Updates

All updates regarding school closure and subsequent reopening will be published on official school social media accounts, websites and on the Home Learning page: www.phl.outwood.com.

If you have any concerns during this unprecedented period of time then please contact the school using the 'Contact Us' page of the school website. We will endeavour to respond as soon as we are able to.

The school will use the text messaging service to contact you about when the school will reopen and arrangements for your child to return to school.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Corbett
Principal