

Headteacher: Andrew Denham

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Wednesday 18th March

Dear Parents,

In line with the government announcement today we will be closing the school to most children from Monday 23rd March. So we will finish at 3.10pm on Friday until further notice.

However, we will be open to children with parents who are 'key workers'. At the moment we understand this to be emergency services, NHS staff, school staff, ministry of defence staff, carers and delivery workers. If you are a parent who falls into one of these categories and will need your child to attend school please let the office know by lunchtime on Friday so we can plan accordingly.

We are awaiting further details about support for families with children on Free or Universal School Meals and will contact you when we know more.

What next?

With the restrictions on movement and socialising there will be pressure to find things for the children (and adults!) to do. TVs and computers are great but even they have their limits for how long they can (or should!) keep children occupied.

I would encourage families to try and establish good routines early on with expectations that the children do some learning in the morning and afternoon each day followed by the reward of using technology and periods of fresh air.

Home Learning Packs (HLPs)

We are keen to ensure that the children continue learning as much is practical and possible.

We are putting together HLPs for all of the children. Each pack will have a 'menu' of work and activities for the children to do in their Home Learning Book.

We are mindful that some families may have difficulty helping their children with the work so will keep the activities 'achievable and realistic' with some support materials and references to websites.

Pick up and Drop Off of HLPs

We would like to keep this system of work going on a rolling weekly programme so that a new Home Learning pack is collected on a Tuesday, completed over the week and returned the following Tuesday (for marking and comments) where another Home Learning Pack will be awaiting collection. You can also use the Home Learning Book as a way of communicating with the class teacher.

To ensure we maintain good social distancing and in an open-air area, the Home Learning Packs will be collected and dropped off on the school playground. We would like families to arrive at different times throughout the day on a Tuesday.

First letter of surname	Collection/Drop Off
A-C	8.30-9.30
D-J	9.30-10.30
K-R	10.30-11.30
S-Z	11.30-12.30

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Notes:

- If you are able to collect a pack for another family, please do so
- Please do not send more than 2 people to drop off/pick up a pack

Do we have to do the HLPs?

Ideally, yes! The children are going to be off school for a long time and this is a lot of lost learning time that we will not be able to catch up on.

We appreciate that some families may not be able or want to collect the packs from school. We understand and respect this decision.

The Home Learning 'menu' of activities will be on the class pages of the website and we will email them out each week. We appreciate that some families do not have a printer so won't be able to do some of this work.

If families choose not to do the drop off/pick up HLPs they will need to provide the children with their own workbooks and the children won't get feedback on their work.

What if my child can't do the work and I don't know how or can't help them?

Don't worry. Don't force it. Write a note in the HLP or email the school office and the information will be passed on to the class teacher who will respond appropriately.

The HLPs are being carefully put together by the teachers so will hopefully match the needs of the children (so some activities may differ within a class).

How long will you be doing the HLP packs?

We will continue with this HLP plan for the next couple of weeks or until we receive new guidance on what we can or can't do. Over time we will be looking towards introducing some online working for the older children.

Contacting the school

For now, there will be staff in school so the phone will be answered between 8.30-3.30pm. The office email will be monitored daily. Please contact us if you have any concerns, worries or need to share information with us.

Finally, these are exceptional times that none of us have experienced before. We are faced with the challenges of having to adapt and respond on a day-by-day basis. However, we are blessed to have a wonderful school and local community that offers a great deal of support and encouragement to each other, which we should be proud of and celebrate.

I would like to thank the incredible staff at school who continue to work hard delivering teaching & learning to the children in a place of safety at a time of great uncertainty and concern.

Kind regards,

Andrew Denham