



Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children from 3:20pm on Friday 20th March until further notice.**

Children of Key Workers

As advised by the government, we will be putting measures in place to remain open for the children of Key Workers (NHS staff, police, others in frontline services). We are awaiting further information from the government on which other occupations are classified as Key Workers. In the meantime, it would help us if you would let us know, as soon as possible, if you think your child falls into one of these categories and may need to attend school over the coming weeks. **You will need to contact the school office by close of school on Friday, giving your child's name, class and evidence how your child falls into the aforementioned categories. Evidence could include contracts or a letter from your employer. Both parents will need to be Key Workers (or a single parent who is a Key Worker) and have no alternative childcare provision. Please consider other family members / friends and grandparents (under the age of 70) who do not fall in to high risk categories. This information is necessary as we have been instructed to keep numbers in school to a minimum. All other schools in the area have asked for the same information.**

We have also been encouraged to stay open for these children over the Easter holidays. This will obviously be a huge challenge, but we will endeavor to do that. Confirmation and details will follow. This will apply to children of Key Workers (and only where no other care is available).

Children with EHCPs

Children who have EHCPs already agreed and signed off (i.e. not in draft or incomplete) are able to attend during term times – not school holiday periods. However, siblings of these pupils must be kept at home. Please let us know by close of school tomorrow if you wish your child to attend school next week. Those with medical needs or underlying health conditions should follow government guidance regarding social distancing.

For the safety and well-being of all of our school community and the wider community, **all other children must** remain at home until further notice. 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. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by text, via the school website and our Facebook page.

Your child's learning is important, so we'll continue to provide work for your child throughout this period of school closures. Children are expected to complete work each day during what would have been the term time.

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home:

- Children will be provided with an initial pack of work that they can do at home. Where possible, these resources are also available under the Home Learning page on our school website.
- Online learning platforms will be signposted on the website, with links to take children to learning which will be set and monitored by their class teacher. This will include MyMaths and MyOn (an online library of books which links to Accelerated Reader quizzes).
- The School Office will remain open next week.
- The government announced yesterday that measures will be put in place to support children who usually receive **free school meals**. We will be in touch with more information, as this is published by the government.

What we won't be able to go ahead with:

- Breakfast and after-school clubs will not take place until further notice.
- Statutory assessments **will not** be taking place throughout the remainder of this academic year. This applies to the end of Key Stage 1 SATS for Year 2 pupils, end of Key Stage 2 SATS for pupils in Year 6, as well as the Year 1 Phonics Check.
- We will not be opening on Good Friday or Easter Monday or any other national bank holiday during the closure period.

This is all of the information that we have at the current time and we appreciate your continued patience with us, 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 is far from ideal, but we will continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops. If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us via telephone on **(01493) 842063** or via email at office@northdenes.norfolk.sch.uk (next week only).

Please remember, if you or your child feel ill and you need further advice, please use the [NHS 111 online](#) service. Children still attending school, who present with symptoms (high temperature or a new cough), will be sent home and be required to self-isolate in line with government guidelines.

Thank you again for your continued support during this challenging time for us all. We will be in touch with more information as soon as this is available.

Yours sincerely,

D Whiting

Head teacher