18 March 2020

School to close following government advice

Dear parents and carers

The situation regarding the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has developed further. As many of you are aware, the government has asked schools to close from Friday as a means of reducing transmission of coronavirus. (Provision will be made for vulnerable children and children of keyworkers.)

Following this advice, I can confirm that we will be closed from Monday 23 March 2020 until we receive a direction from the government to reopen.

As families you may like to consult Public Health England’s stay at home advice for guidance during the time of school closure.

We strongly urge our parents and carers to ensure their children complete schoolwork daily as well as read regularly.

For learning activities, please refer to the “How to keep learning at home” sheets emailed and handed out on Tuesday 17 March. (These will also be available in each year group’s page on the website.) If your child was absent from school on Tuesday, we will drop this work off at your house.

Further information:

Contacting the school during this period of school closure

During this period of school closure, staff will not be available to accept calls or enquiries as usual.

However, should you have any enquiries, please use the regular school contact details (see below) to contact us. All emails received and telephone enquiries will be responded to within reduced school office hours (Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 1:00 pm)

Children of key workers

We will have learning provision in place from 23 March for the children of keyworkers. More details will follow, but the prime minister defined keyworkers as NHS staff, police officers, social care workers and delivery drivers. If you are in one of these categories and wish your child to continue to attend school from next Monday, please contact the school office as soon as possible at admin@someriesjuniorschool.co.uk or 01582 738810. (Details of this provision will follow later).

Communication of school re-opening

When we are advised to re-open the school, we will advise parents and carers via email.

Pupils currently receiving speech and language therapy

Parents and carers of pupils who are currently receiving speech and language therapy in school will be contacted directly by Magic Words Speech and Language Therapy to make arrangements for online sessions which utilises their specialist platform.

Safeguarding and child protection concerns

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child during this period of school closure, please contact our temporary safeguarding mobile number 07459 304975 (Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm).

Alternatively, you can contact Luton Council’s Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub here.

I would like to thank my staff whose positive attitude and professionalism have been excellent in these uncertain times. They have kept the school environment clean and safe and ensured that the children have been well cared for and that education has continued.
Your children have also responded well to the difficult circumstances. They have demonstrated the school values of responsibility and cooperation in taking extra precautions to avoid spreading germs and they have kept working hard in class.

Thank you for supporting the school during this difficult period.

Yours sincerely

Mr Hunt