



NORBRIGGS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Norbriggs Road, Mastin Moor, Chesterfield S43 3BW
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Headteacher: Mr P Scragg
Deputy Head: Mr P Taylor
Assistant Head: Mrs F Hurcum



20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware the Government has announced that schools will close for the vast majority of pupils at the end of Friday 20th March.

These are going to be extremely challenging times for everybody. My immediate concerns are for health, wellbeing and safety of your children, your families and my staff.

I worry about the effects social isolation will have on people's mental health, the strain it will put on families and how that may manifest into issues that could be avoided if we had been at school to offer support.

I also worry about the damage this will do to children's education. We all know that children forget a degree of learning over the summer holidays. I cannot imagine how much they will regress if we do not return to school until September.

The advice from the Government is that:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

We have contacted all the people who we believe to be eligible for a school place according to the Government criteria and offers have been made. If you have not been offered a school place for Monday 23rd March, and you believe you are entitled to one, please contact school before you bring your child as we will need to ensure we have adequate staffing.

2. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

- Do not make any non-essential journeys using public transport.
- If you can work from home you should.
- Avoid large and small gatherings in sporting venues, bars, clubs, cinemas, etc
- Avoid gatherings with friends and family – meet up using technology and online means.
- Your children should not be going out and playing in the street or park with their friends and they should not have their friends over at their house.
- **If children gather to play on the school field I will be asking them to leave.**
- You can go out as a family but you should be looking to isolate yourself from other people.
- If you go out it should be to areas where there are not any other people, for example a walk in the countryside, bike ride, etc
- If you need to go to the supermarket only one person should go, not the whole family.





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School staff are also subject to this advice. From Monday we will have the minimum amount of staff in school to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children.

Any staff not working directly with children will be directed to work from home.

We all have a duty to stay away from each other as best as possible to help stop the spread of this disease.

That said, we are here and we do want to support you as much as possible.

- Our kitchen staff will be in cooking meals for children who are in school. If you would like them to make you a packed lunch please let us know. You will need to come and collect it yourself.
- If your circumstances change and you need a school place for your child, let us know.
- If it is all getting too much and the kids are driving you wild, get in touch. We may be able to offer you a school place for a short period to give you some respite.
- If you need help or support with anything, give us a call and we will see if we can help.
- I am aware that buses may reduce to a Saturday service which could make getting to the shops more difficult. I am in the process of setting up a food and essential items distribution hub. Fareshare and the Local Council are onboard so I am hoping that we can get deliveries of food ASAP which the elderly, and those that cannot get to the shops, can access. If you want to donate food you can bring it to school and we can use it to put food parcels together.
- Staff have sent out packs of work for children to do.
- I have sent out links to websites with lots of resources for children.
- We are looking into ways we can keep getting work to you whilst we are off.
- **If you only do one thing please read with your child everyday.**
- Joe Wickes, The Body Coach, has a you tube channel and he is doing daily workouts for children and adults. I strongly recommend you watch these and join in. They are great fun and will help to keep you active.

I wish you and your families good health over the coming period and hope that we can return to school as soon as possible.

Look after yourselves, look after each other and I hope to see you soon.

Yours faithfully,

P. Scragg
Head Teacher

