



# Bonners Church of England Primary School

South Ashdown Schools' Federation

Head teacher Mrs Ewa Wilson

*Inspire & Aspire*



20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Newsletter 11

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the government's announcement to close all schools for most pupils across the UK until further notice, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers and children with certain needs. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. It is important to underline that schools, and other educational establishments, remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. If we at Bonners School can no longer provide this offer, parents have been advised to **contact the local authority** for alternative provision to be made.

Thank you to all who have filled in the recent survey and have been so co-operative and understanding. We will be letting those families know as soon as possible of the arrangements which have been made for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The prime reasoning for closing schools is to encourage social distancing and therefore slow the spread of the COVID 19 virus. I am concerned that if the number of children in school remains high from Monday, the purpose of the closure will be negated. This will also put pressure on staffing and resources and could lead to sporadic full school closures on a short notice basis.

I also have the health of the staff and their families to think about. It is not always overall staff numbers that drive school functionality, but the availability of key staff (safeguarding leads, first aiders etc).

In essence, I am respectfully asking that even if you are defined as a Key Worker you make every effort to keep your child at home, if at all possible.

During this time of school closure, it is important that families know that whatever the numbers in school, it is the end of formal schooling. The role of the school is changing to providing childcare in school simply looked after by available staff. Your child will be cared for in different groups and in different areas of the school – there will be no 'lessons'.

There will be no educational advantage from being in school or being at home. It would be unfair to disadvantage families who have made sacrifices to keep their children away.

Thank you for your support at this challenging time. At the time of writing, we are very much focusing on the next two weeks, bearing in mind the picture is changing rapidly.

Our whole staff team would like to thank you all for being so supportive during such an incredibly unsettling time. Staff have been busy preparing learning for the children to access during the school closure and you will be able to communicate with staff regarding learning through our interactive APP between 9-3pm Monday- Friday. We have been so impressed with pupils who have already been accessing the provision provided whilst isolating at home.

We will endeavour to keep you updated and provide you with the latest information regarding school closures and plans for the coming weeks as we receive them.

Today the children have enjoyed their last formal day of school and we have talked to our year 6 pupils reassuring them that we **WILL** most definitely be celebrating their time at Bonners School in a very special way as soon as schools are notified that they can safely re-open again. We look forward to seeing you all on our return back to school.

Keep safe and healthy

Mrs Wilson and the Bonners Team

*"Inspire & Aspire"*

*Inspired by God, we aspire to be the best we can be, so that we can live life in all its fullness.*

*"I have come that they may have life to the full." (John 10:10)*