

23/3/20

Section 1: Message for all

School remains closed.

As of today we are in uncharted territory.

In the days before closure it became apparent that quite a few families do not read these updates. Please could you alert and share these updates widely- this will help with the volume of calls relating to issues already addressed in the updates.

Emergency Home School Agreement:

1. All parents should expect that things will not initially go smoothly; bear with us.
2. Teachers are now working as carers to ensure the correct people can continue to do jobs specifically to combat the virus directly, issues created through it and its spread.
3. Online work officially starts today between teachers and the pupils in their class through Google Classrooms. However, note that teachers are now dividing their time between working at school and online, therefore they may be offline on some days. Please do not expect your child's teacher to attempt to work online while also acting as child care at school.
4. School staff continue to be equally affected by the current situation, we still have up to 50% of school staff either self isolating or social distancing.
5. School leadership activity now consists of monitoring interactions online, handling the rota of onsite provision (made more fluid by staff coming in to and off of isolation) and strategic planning for reopening.
6. The government are considering ever tougher measures to help people abide by the need for social distancing. Here we reiterate the government guidance: **"If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why 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."**

Section 2: Messages for those using emergency childcare

We are proud to be able to help those who are addressing the critical issues around the virus spread by offering this limited childcare. Nevertheless, you make the final decision about using our childcare ensuring you are informed by the government's latest, very strong recommendation, to abide by social distance. Schools have been instructed to stay open to take groups of critical key worker and vulnerable pupils for emergency childcare but social distancing cannot be enacted under these arrangements- if you are not happy with this, make different arrangements. Your choice must be guided by the expectation we have of this issue when admitting your child.

If your child is on the register, please **think before they enter school** each day:

1. Is this **childcare unavoidable** and is it **specifically** for my work **to support those who need help or to stop the virus spread**?
2. Do I have **contact with others who are elderly or vulnerable** and sending my child to school could lead to further spread?

Do not enter if your child or anyone in your household is **showing symptoms**. Contact us to give us this update.

Note that it remains possible that the school could close entirely, due to severe lack of staff. Complete closure will be communicated via the app and website as soon as the decision is made.

What to expect of 'reduced provision'

1. Staff will monitor safety and intervene on any inappropriate behaviour
2. Staff will provide a variety of activities but these will not necessarily have educational value.
3. Playtime and lunchtime will be monitored for appropriate play and eating.
4. It is highly likely that there will be a very wide mix of age ranges in groups.
5. School rules apply.
6. Uniform is not necessary.

Section 3: Messages for parents with children at home

We will have more for you in this section when onsite organisation has settled.