



Homefield Church of England Primary School

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Coronavirus: Required Closure

Dear Parents/Carers,

20th March 2020

Re: Coronavirus Update – School Closure

Following on from yesterday's update, we are now writing to let you know that we have been given a list of key workers. This can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Please note that the guidance to key worker parents states that they should only ask if they really need a place and priority will be given where both parents are key workers. The Government wish for families to look after their own children at home, where possible, to reduce the number of pupils in schools and therefore the potential spread of infection.

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

If people work from home, or do not work full-time or are on shifts, we advise that on all occasions when parents are not working pupils are looked after at home. Please remember the school will have drastically reduced staffing on site managing the reduced numbers as a result. The following link explains some of what we have said.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

We appreciate that these are uncertain times for all and the school closure may impact on your own livelihoods, but we will do what is best for the safety of everyone to battle the spread of this disease. At all times, please ensure you interact with school staff appropriately and politely. Rudeness of any kind will not be tolerated. Please also understand that school childcare cannot be misused at the moment simply so some can continue to work in non-key worker roles as per guidance. If school numbers grow too large and this poses a genuine risk to health the school could possibly close to all due to safety.

Furthermore, pupils who are already in self-isolation for fourteen days must not return until after the fourteen day quarantine has expired, regardless of whether parents are key workers or not. If pupils do, they are potentially endangering others and will be sent home.



Whilst children are at school, the highest level of behaviour will continue to be expected from them, particularly due to the reduced staffing on site. We also expect exemplary behaviour to ensure the mix of ages we will have in school remain settled, calm and safe, during times which may seem highly unsettling to them. As the school are providing childcare and not education from Monday, any pupil falling short of these expectations will be sent home for their parents to look after.

Many of you have heard from us already or have rung in yourselves to speak to staff regarding key worker roles. However, we have now put together a more formal survey online, which will enable us to swiftly collate those who fall into the key categories and those who do not. It will also allow you to state whether you require only part-week childcare or a full week. This will help us with appropriate staffing. Please fill this short Google survey in at: <https://forms.gle/H1UkJ2pGuXoHmzuC9> you just need to sign in with a Google email account. It will take no more than a couple of minutes to complete.

Following guidance from the Government on those pupils eligible for free school meals (this is not those falling under the Universal Infant Free School Meals banding), we will be contacting you to enquire whether or not your child requires a packed lunch each day. If you do and your child is at home, the packed lunch will be prepared and awaiting your collection each day from our school office. If you do not require one please state this. Those eligible who are already in school can just state each morning whether they wish to have a lunch or not as normal.

Currently, we are working on a system using our Google account to enable our older pupils to be given more personalised work and a forum to be able to receive work directly from their class teachers. Further information will be released, once we have established a stronger understanding of how this Google Classroom will work, but it is a highly valuable resource if this school closure endures.

Once again, we thank you for your continued understanding and patience.

Yours sincerely,

Bradley Young
Headteacher

