



'We can and we will'

## GLEBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my newsletter yesterday, I'm now writing to let you know that, as you may have seen on the news, **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children from tomorrow (Friday) at 3.30pm until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs. This will be on a 'childcare' basis and these children will not be taught to ensure equality with the children who will not be allowed into school. They will be following the same programme of work that will be sent home to all of our pupils.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what constitutes a 'key worker', but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know via the office email address if you think your child may fall into one of these categories. Places in our new provision will only be open to parents if you **and** your partner (or just you if you are a single parent) are one of the following:

- NHS staff
- Delivery Driver
- School staff
- Police officers

I will be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to. Please note this is an offer of provision and you do not have to take up the option, even if you are in the key categories. We cannot accept places on a day to day basis or on a part time basis.

We have been in touch with the catering company who prepare our hot school meals and they will provide lunch for those 'key' pupils who will be attending the child care provision through the usual procedures, i.e. payment via school money if you wish to take up this option. Alternatively, you can send you child in with a packed lunch if that is your preference.

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by emailing you and updating the school website.

I will be in regular contact (at least weekly) and will continue to do a newsletter or an update to keep you informed and just generally keep in touch.



### **What we'll continue doing while your child is at home**

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

- Your child's class teacher will send you a week by week learning programme that will start Monday morning. We do not want to inundate and overwhelm you so we have decided that a week by week programme is best.
- We will also be sending out subject specific websites that may prove useful.
- You can decide how your day will be structured, but we advise that creating a routine will help home learning run smoothly!
- Please look out for our blog – details will follow shortly. We will be setting some work via the blog as well as via dojo.
- Class teachers will still be contactable throughout 'term time' via class dojo or email via the school office.

As I mentioned in my newsletter yesterday, we are looking into the possibility of working with a catering company to provide food parcels for our families who are entitled to free school meals in the event of a whole school closure. These would be delivered to a designated place for collection by the family. If your child is entitled to a free school meal due to your financial circumstances, please let the school know if you wish to be included in this scheme.

NB: This offer does not apply to the Universal Infant Free School Meals.

### **What we won't be able to go ahead with**

- School trips, including Year 6 school journey
- Breakfast or after-school clubs **for children not in the key groups previously specified**
- Events
- Internal exams or tests

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support and resilience, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Kind regards

Mrs Melanie Penney

Head Teacher