



20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

RE: School Closure

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your continued support over these recent difficult days.

You will have heard the Prime Minister announcing that from Friday schools will be closed until further notice. We will be closing at 3.30pm on Friday 20th March 2020.

The government has updated its guidance yesterday evening so please read this letter carefully and if you are one of the key workers listed below, you must contact us urgently so that we can make arrangements for you. Key workers are listed as follows:

Health and social care Frontline health and social care staff such as doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, as well as support and specialist staff in the health and social care sector. In addition, it includes those working in supply chains including producers and distributors of medicines and personal protective equipment.
Education and childcare Nursery, teaching staff and social workers
Key public services Those required to run the justice system, religious staff, as well as those responsible for managing the deceased, and journalists providing public service broadcasting
Local and national government Administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response or delivering essential public services, including payment of benefits.
Food and other necessary goods Those involved in the production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery of food
Public safety and national security Police, support staff, Ministry of Defence civilian staff and armed forces personnel, fire and rescue staff, and those responsible for border security, prisons and probation.
Transport Those who will keep air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response.
Utilities, communication and financial services Staff required to keep oil, gas, electricity, water and sewerage operations running. Staff in the civil nuclear, chemical and telecommunications sectors. Those in postal services and those working to provide essential financial services.
My child has a social worker
My child has an EHCP or receives Exceptional Needs Grant

If you work within the critical categories above, you must confirm with us if you need childcare and that your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service. **Please do so today. Please complete the Eligible Children and Key Workers' Information Form and return it to the school as soon as possible. Please remember, you will need to provide proof of your Key Worker job.**

It is expected that many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

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.

We have prepared home learning resources so that your children can continue to do some school work at home, practising and consolidating learning, and developing key English and maths skills. Every child from Reception to Year 6 will be provided with a home learning pack. There will be additional resources for children on the Google Classroom. In their Home Learning Pack, you will find their Google Classroom log in details on the inside cover of their work book.

In the pack, there will also be guidance from the teacher which contains links to some useful learning websites, including Mathletics, Oxford Reading and Hegarty Maths (for Years 5 and 6).

We understand that not everyone will be able to access the internet as older children will need to have priority. Nor do we recommend your child is looking at a screen all day. The Home Learning Pack should provide enough to keep them going. Do please support us by helping your child/children to set up a home learning routine. Don't forget to include some creative activities and physical activity where possible.

We have set up an email address for parents/guardians who find themselves in crisis with nowhere to turn. The leadership team will monitor this daily and if we are able to help, we will. We can't promise to have solutions to all problems but we are committed to do our best. Please only use this for urgent requests for help. It is not for general queries or communication – continue to check the website for other information. (We don't deliver toilet roll!) The address is urgent-help-needed@rcobden.camden.sch.uk.

You will have also heard that external examinations will not be taking place in May and June. We have been informed that the following statutory assessments are cancelled this year:

- end of key stage 1 and key stage 2 assessments (including tests and teacher assessment)
- phonics screening check
- multiplication tables check

We will still undertake our usual teacher assessment and report the outcomes of these to you in the end of year reports.

We have been informed by the Local Authority that provision will also be made available in the form of food parcels for pupils who are in receipt of free school meals. We will provide more information on this as when it is available to us.

Children who are in school today will be given a Home Learning Pack to take home. If your child is absent from school, you can collect their pack from school Friday 20th March 2020. **Packs can be collected between 9.30am and 11.00am or between 2.00pm and 3.30pm.**

Please refer to our website where we will keep you updated with any further information we receive.

As always, we will continue to work closely with you. We know this is an anxious time for all. We look forward to seeing more positive outcomes with the coronavirus situation and returning to normal school life. We hope you all stay safe and well and we will be thinking of you.

With very best wishes,

Kathy Bannon and the School Team
HEADTEACHER