



BEARWOOD Primary and Nursery School

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Learning, Enjoying & Succeeding Together

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We deliberately delayed sending out this update in order to respond to the announcements made by the Government yesterday. **Boris Johnson has announced that all schools in England and Wales will be closed from Friday afternoon at 3.30pm.**

Whilst we have been preparing for shutdown, it has been made clear that schools are to be closed to all children **except** to our most vulnerable and those of “key workers”. Following the announcement yesterday, we have put in place plans for opening on Monday for the children of key workers, vulnerable pupils and those with an EHCP. The list of keyworkers identified at this point are:

- National health service
- School Staff
- Armed forces
- Care home workers
- Social workers
- Police officers
- Prison officers
- Fire fighters
- Environmental health officers
- Highways Agency workers
- Supermarket workers
- Delivery drivers

Where there is a key worker but there is another parent/carer that is not, it is not expected that the child(ren) will be in school.



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At this point in time, we do not know how many of our children this may apply to and therefore would ask that you **please telephone school by tomorrow morning to let us know if you feel this definition applies to you**. This will enable us to understand how many children we may need to provide for and therefore plan accordingly for staffing and cover.

This means that school will be closed to those children whose parents do not fall within this definition from the end of the school day on Friday, 20 March. We have been preparing a range of activities to access whilst absent from school and there is enough there to support children until the scheduled Easter break. We will be sharing this with you before Friday afternoon and your children have already been provided with inputs on how to access the work and what to do. We will provide more content after Easter as required.

I know we're all really worried about the situation we find ourselves in but it is really important we continue to reassure our children that we are doing all we can to keep them safe and that it is highly unlikely they'll become seriously ill. They may be feeling anxious about a range of things from not being able to be with their friends to working independently. We have had a number of conversations with the children to prepare them for this situation and will continue to keep in touch to reassure them – and you – and provide help and guidance with learning.

There have been many messages from you expressing your thanks and support and I would like you to know just how much they mean to us. We are very aware that there are differing levels of support for you in the community and that you are also worried about your own loved ones. We will try to ensure we help where we can, even in our now limited capacity, and we would encourage you to let us know if you think there is something we can do. We may not be able to do everything, but we will do what we can.

I'm sure you can appreciate that there are a number of arrangements we now need to make to prepare for closure on Friday. We will update you as soon as possible about these.

As ever, thank you for your continued support.

Laura Bennett



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