

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure

We are writing to inform you that as advised by the Government on Wednesday 18th March all Pathfinder Schools will be closed from Monday 23rd March for the foreseeable future.

In line with Government guidelines, we will be offering provision for pupils of key workers and vulnerable pupils who are unable to find alternative childcare. In order to ensure your children are as safe as possible during this difficult time we would kindly ask you, if at all possible, to make alternative arrangements. The government has stressed that **every child** who can be safely cared for at home should be as this is the safest place for them to be, when in school it is not possible to fully socially isolate.

We have just been notified of the guidelines as to who qualifies as a key worker. In order to ensure we meet health and safety guidelines we need to establish the number of adults available to undertake care provision for families who are hoping to use this facility. In the meantime we will be making provision on Monday for the pupils of families where **all adults** work in front line emergency services ie NHS, police and fire service **and who are unable to find alternative care**. This will be reviewed as we gather more information but for the time being, we want to ensure that these vital services can continue.

If you believe that you fulfil the criteria above, please follow the link below and complete the survey. We would kindly ask you to complete this as soon as possible – preferably by **12pm on Friday 20th March** so that we can make the necessary arrangements for Monday morning. We will then contact you to let you know if you qualify for the provision.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s6yrlFDW3EmpghIHs25jGa9W6IUvZDhGr_89hzz1kWZUMFTLIVERzhUWIRVQTVTOUoxVEE1WlhEMi4u

We will be sending a further survey as soon as possible in line with government guidelines for eligible critical workers, but will not have this provision in place for Monday morning. The health and safety of our pupils and staff has to be the basis for all our decision making.

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 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 whenever we get further information.

We will be providing ongoing learning for your child to complete whilst at home, initial details of which have already been sent and further work will be sent weekly by teachers.

If your child usually receives free school meals (i.e. you are eligible in line with government guidance – not the universal offer for all children to the age of 7), we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this if needed. We are currently in the early stages of working out how this will be managed but will keep you updated as we know more.

We send our best wishes to you all and thank you again for your continued support during this difficult time.

Kind regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Davey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ann Davey
Chief Executive Pathfinder Schools

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Buckley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Laura Buckley
Head Teacher