



STEPHENSON WAY ACADEMY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

-Headteacher: Mrs T Page

-Stephenson Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 7DD

-Tel: 01325 300324 -Email: office@swans.education -Website: www.swcps.co.uk

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from our last update, I'm now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed by the Government to close the school to almost all children at 3pm this Friday 20th March until further notice. If you are currently self-isolating and are absent from school, you must also remain at home until such time that you are advised it is safe to return.**

Key Workers/ Vulnerable Children:

We are still awaiting confirmation from the Government as to what jobs are classified as being 'Key Workers' and will be in touch with you via Teachers2Parents Text service when this information is released, which is likely to be tomorrow after a Government announcement later today. Please respond to that Text as soon as you possibly can.

In the meantime, please be assured that we are putting plans in place in order that we can stay open for the children of Key Workers and children with certain needs.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Children who are not identified as being vulnerable or the children of Key Workers or who are currently self-isolated, will need to stay at home and we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards until further notice.

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 through Text2Parents and school website <http://www.swcps.co.uk/>

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 through a range of approaches detailed in your child's homework pack. If your child is currently absent from school, please contact the office to arrange for your pack to be picked up when you are able to do so safely. We feel it is important to timetable the day for your child and keep some normality to the working week, with a recommendation of three hours a day to be spent on the various tasks in the pack along with breaks and other activities of your choice in between.

Staff will update you through our normal communication channels (Text2Parents, School Website) however, we have also set up an email for each class so you can communicate with your child's teacher during office hours if you need any further support or advice regarding your child's work. This email address can be found on each of the Class Pages on our school website <http://www.swcps.co.uk/>



If you need any other information or have questions that are not related to your child's work, please email the school office office@swans.education

Free School Meals:

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch as soon as we know further details about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the Government has just announced.

Trips / After school clubs

We have postponed the Y4 Dukeshouse Wood Trip until the Autumn Term.

All after school clubs, including Breakfast Club and Tea Time Club will no longer be operational from Friday 20th March.

All summer term events and trips have been cancelled.

SATs / Assessments:

The Government has cancelled all formal testing next term including Y6 SATs, Y2 SATs, Y4 Times Tables and Y1 Phonics.

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

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so.

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

Kind regards,

Mrs Page
Head Teacher