

# Christ Church C of E VC Primary School

*'To inspire a love of learning for life so that every child can flourish within a supportive Christian community'*



**Headteacher: Mr. Neil McKellar-Turner**

Friday 20 March 2020

## **Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update #3**

### **School Closure**

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Following the government's announcement that all schools in England will be closing as of the end of the school day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, I am writing to inform you of our plans and the key information you need to know.

As I am sure you are aware, the announcement that schools are to close was given with an exception; schools have been asked to remain open for the pupils of key workers as well as any vulnerable pupils. We will be contacting families of vulnerable pupils separately to discuss whether you would want a school place for your child.

The government has defined key workers as follows:

<b>Key Workers</b>	
Health and social care	This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.
Education and childcare	This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.
Key public services	This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.
Local and national government	This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.
Food and other necessary goods	This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).
Public safety and national	This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs)

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security	and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.
Transport	This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.
Utilities, communication and financial services	This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

**The Department for Education have made it clear that, even if you are classified as a key worker, you should only accept a school place if you are unable to keep your child safely at home.**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?fbclid=IwAR2GTZ7IMEI-3GA-5YpoB236dWOntg4AFsbjVjanLo\\_mD\\_oJ2iio8yOWk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?fbclid=IwAR2GTZ7IMEI-3GA-5YpoB236dWOntg4AFsbjVjanLo_mD_oJ2iio8yOWk)

### **What this means for you**

As of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, our **school will be closed to all pupils apart from those who meet the criteria listed above and have no other alternative options for your child.**

We understand that this decision is not an easy one to accept and may cause your family concern due to childcare arrangements. However, we have to follow the advice provided to us from the government and Department for Education.

Even though your child/children will have to be cared for at home from next week, as a school we want to let families know that we will remain in contact with you and provide a range of services in order to support you during this period of change and uncertainty.

For as long as we can, we will provide the following during the closure period:

- Telephone and email service for families who want to discuss any concerns, ask questions or just want to speak to someone who will listen
- Telephone calls to families of pupils who we are already working with or supporting, and who do not fall into the government's category of 'vulnerable'. A key member of staff will be assigned to you during this period
- Updated learning resources available on our website
- Weekly emails to the class from the class teacher
- Weekly update to parents about school closure and coronavirus from the Headteacher
- Development of a school Twitter account to share updates and links to fun activities to complete at home

## Learning at home

As long as your child is well and not displaying any symptoms of coronavirus, then please use the learning packs that will be available on our school website from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

These will be added to throughout each week but they should provide you with some exciting activities to inspire your child. Please do get involved and support your child with their learning at home. Every pupil will be provided with a new exercise book in which to complete their learning at home. These will come home with your child today.

## Pupils of key workers and vulnerable pupils

For those pupils who fall into the government's categories, we will continue to operate the school for your children. Please ensure that you have **informed us by today** if you would like your child to have a place in school.

The provision we provide will look different to the usual school day and will be reviewed on a daily basis in light of staffing levels and ability to maintain the hygiene and safety of the school environment. The Local Authority is also drawing up plans for the long-term provision for these pupils. However, from Monday, pupils who fall into either one or both of the identified categories will be able to attend school at the usual times.

For as long as we are able to guarantee adequate staffing and supervision ratios, we will provide:

- Breakfast Club from 7.30am and After School Club from 3.20 until 6.00pm- **we will be running this free of charge** to support you in your critical role. However, please book online using SIMS Pay as usual.
- School day provision from **8.45am until 3.20pm**
- School dinners- these will still need to be paid for online using ParentPay. However, these will still be free for pupils in Reception to Year 2 and for any pupil in receipt of free school meals.
- Daily exercise and physical activity

We will not be running any music tuition or after school clubs during the period of school closure with the exception of Breakfast and After School Club.

Pupils should come to school wearing school uniform as usual.

## Support

Whether your child is at school or at home over the coming weeks, please be assured that the safeguarding, health and wellbeing of all our pupils and families remains at the core of what we do.

We understand that for some of our families, there will be worries about maintaining finances and keeping food on the table. In order to support all our families during this period, we will keep you regularly updated with key information.

For any pupil who is **eligible for free school meals** (we will contact you today), a free school dinner will be available as usual. If your child is not in school because you are not a critical, key worker or they are not identified as vulnerable, **we will be offering them the opportunity to come into school to have their free**

**hot meal at 12.45pm.** For any pupil who is eligible for free school meals but is self-isolating, we will be happy to deliver a packed lunch to your door. We will be in contact with to discuss this with you.

A huge thank you for the generous donations of essential food and household items that have been brought into school today. Given the current climate, we are so grateful for your kindness and generosity. We will be using your donations either to support our local food banks or to establish a school food bank to support our families who may need additional support during this period of time. If we are able to do this, we will inform you in due course regarding how this will operate. Please do continue to bring in donations if at all possible.

If you or someone in your family need to access a food bank, we have listed some for you below:

### **Food banks links for families living in South Gloucestershire**

<https://oneyou.southglos.gov.uk/eat-well/food-poverty-support/>

### **Food banks links for families living in Bristol**

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/>

<https://eastbristol.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/>

### **Safeguarding**

We are advising, for safeguarding reasons, that whilst they are at home, individual mobile phones are kept from children during school hours as normal (unless supervised). This is obviously your choice as parents, but we would like to suggest this to help prevent a surge of issues for children with online bullying and also help stop the spread of panic or concern for the pupils during this time. Also, with some pupils still in attendance at school, it could be very easy for comments to be taken the wrong way on social media or online.

As we have stated above, we will be ensuring that we remain open and accessible via telephone and email should you have any concerns. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please feel free to telephone the school and ask to speak with me as Designated Safeguarding Lead or Mrs Sophocli as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Below is a list of key numbers and contacts that are useful to share with you during the period of school closure:

- South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership: <http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/>
- Access and Response Team – 01454 86 6000 (during working hours)
- Emergency duty team – 01454 615165 (out of hours)
- Police – 101 for non-urgent issues or 999 if urgent and an immediate response is needed
- Domestic Abuse Concerns - Next Link South Glos domestic abuse telephone help line 0800 4700 280  
<http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/wp-content/uploads/sites/221/2016/02/Domestic-Abuse-Posters-2017.pdf>
- Mental health support - CAMHS (if young person is currently under CAMHS) – 01454 862431 or if you are concerned that you are not able to keep your child safe or they are not able to keep themselves safe then take them to the Accident & Emergency department at Bristol Children's hospital or call for an ambulance <https://cchp.nhs.uk/cchp/explore-cchp/child-family-consultation-services-camhs-0>
- CHILDLINE – 0800 1111 or visit their website [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

- Samaritans – 116 123

## **National Curriculum assessments**

Along with the decision to close schools, the Secretary of State also announced that all national assessments for this academic year will be cancelled.

For Primary schools, this will mean that the following assessments and tests will no longer take place:

- end of key stage 1 (year 2) assessments (including tests and teacher assessment)
- end of key stage 2 (year 6) SATs and teacher assessment
- year 1 phonics screening check
- year 4 multiplication tables check

Finally, in these uncertain times, please take time to look out for one another and enjoy the chance to spend time with loved ones. Please remember to keep yourselves updated with the latest advice from Public Health England and the government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

We thank you for your patience and understanding whilst we have been awaiting information and clarity from the government and Department for Education. Please be assured that we will continue to stay in contact with you and inform you of any developments.

Take care of yourselves and your families and please remember we are at the end of the telephone and available via email should you need to talk.

Best wishes,



Neil McKellar-Turner  
Headteacher

On behalf of Team CCH