



PEEL COMMON *Community Junior School*

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Headteacher : Mr Andy Clarke
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19th March 2020

Dear Parents

First of all, thank you so much for your care, dedication and commitment to your children, our school and each other in these difficult times.

Given yesterday's announcement to close all schools as from the end of school on Friday, there is much to clarify, prepare for and communicate.

The government have asked us to keep our school open to children of 'key workers' and for 'vulnerable' children from Monday onwards.

We're still not quite sure what either constitutes 'key workers' or 'vulnerable' children or indeed, who will take us up on our offer but I'm expecting clarification soon from central government. As I currently understand it, examples of 'key workers' are NHS staff, emergency services and delivery drivers of essential products and foodstuffs. If you are a key worker and there is another 'well' parent at home or can be at home because they themselves are not key workers, then we would not be offering the opportunity for your child to attend school. I am currently awaiting clarification on this but the spirit of this offer is to enable key workers to attend work. An example of 'vulnerable' children are those that have a social worker or have an EHCP, but we are awaiting further clarification on this also. I will update you as and when I know.

If your child/family falls into the above category (or you think they may fall into this category) and you would like your child to attend from Monday onwards, then you must let the school office know by Friday so that we can safely staff the numbers attending. If you would rather your child didn't attend, then there is no statutory obligation.

We are hoping that we will open school from 8.45am to 3.15pm following a curriculum that teachers decided upon yesterday and I will describe in more detail below. From Monday onwards, only the Visitor Gate will be open. Children attending must come in through the school reception where they will be registered by an office member of staff.

In discussion with Mrs Owen, Breakfast Club will remain open as usual for those families of 'key workers' and those 'vulnerable' children who currently attend Breakfast Club and who will be attending school from Monday.

We are also hoping to be able to provide lunches for those attending school and for those Free School Meals children/families. I will update more on how we may deliver on this at a later date.

All of the above is dependent on everyone's health and therefore would be subject to change.



The government are asking us to remain open to key workers over the Easter holidays, which we will endeavour to do whilst we have sufficient staff to cover this.

For those children who don't fall into the 'key worker' or 'vulnerable' children categories and will not be attending school from Monday, then we have prepared lots of resources to enable you to continue your child's learning from home.

You will receive a series of emails (hard copies will be sent home or delivered home if you do not have this facility) with Year group specific learning, helpful tips, a suggested timetable and guidance on how to also cater for your child's emotional well-being.

We will also be sending an exercise book home for your child to complete work in if you choose.

The intention is also, where we are able, to ring you periodically to check in with how things are going. This is not to do with accountability but as another layer of support.

We will also be considering using/updating our website with resources and as we do this we will also let you know.

If we think of anything additional to add to this that might be helpful, then we will communicate with you via the teachers2parents app.

We will be speaking to all children who are in school today to update them on what to expect from Monday onwards so they feel more reassured.

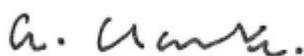
For those pupils in Year 6, the government has also announced that there will be no SATs tests this year and I would imagine they will be asking us, as schools, to provide teacher assessment only. For some/many this will be hugely disappointing as they have worked so hard and achieved so much. The continued learning is still vitally important though, as this really is in preparation for secondary school and their future life chances.

Some Year 6's have also expressed their concern that tomorrow might be their last day in school. We sincerely hope not but whatever the case, we will definitely be offering an opportunity to get together once all of this has passed, even if this does extend into the next academic year.

These are uncertain and unsettling times. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. And please look after yourselves and each other.

Please, if you have any concerns or questions, then either email or phone the school office and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mr Clarke
Headteacher