



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Re: School Closure

As I'm sure you are all aware by now, we close at 3:05pm today for the vast majority of our families until further notice. We are operating on a skeleton staff for children of key workers and vulnerable families as directed by Government. **This will be to provide essential childcare, not education.**

Today has been a very sad day as we say good bye to the children, not knowing when we will see them next. The staff have been amazing at dealing with lots of very sensitive and fragile children, who of course are wondering what the next few months will bring.

We have shown all the children where to access the class blogs on our school website and have talked to them all about online safety. We will be posting weekly work plans on the class blogs each Friday by midday, for families to work through the following week. Please, please, please keep reading to and with your child during the closure. This is such an essential skill which underpins all learning. There may be times in the future when we open for book swaps, but I will contact you via email if we are able to do this safely at some point.

I appreciate that it is a challenging, anxious time for families; caring for loved ones, looking after poorly family members, having to alter work patterns, potential financial pressures, social isolation and the general uncertainty of how long the situation may last. Debbie Taylor, our Home School Link Worker will still be available to email should you need support, but as you can appreciate, she will mainly be sign posting families to places they can access specific support. dtay0111@queensway.oxon.sch.uk

If you have any immediate safeguarding concerns please contact:

The MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) 03330143325

We have contacted all the families who are in receipt of Free School Meals and given them the option of collecting a packed lunch from school during the closure, or we will be delivering if they are self-isolating. We are continuing to look at alternatives beyond Easter as it maybe that we move to a food voucher, but of course we will be in contact with this group of families when we have any updates. Please could these 23 families ensure they notify us through the school office if you are self-isolating so we know to deliver. We will of course do our best to accommodate these requests but again it will depend on how well my staff are too. For those who aren't self-isolating, your lunch will be ready to collect from school at 12:30pm via the main office. We will not be allowing you into the school due to social distancing guidance.

Regarding the partial opening for children of Key Workers and vulnerable children, we are still in the process of collating all the requests for hours etc. I will then make a decision as to what our final offer is. At this stage, the only certainty is we will be open for school hours, i.e. 8:40-3:05pm, but I am assessing the demand and required staffing levels and will be in contact with this group of families over the weekend regarding wrap around care. I appreciate this is last minute, but from our point of view, we can't pull all this together by 3pm today when the announcement of Key Worker definition was only released in the early hours today. We are still trawling through the emails and phone call requests, gathering more details. Thank you for your patience. We will be requesting evidence that you are Key Workers, i.e. payslips or contract letters. Again, can I stress, this offer is only if alternative arrangements can't be made. Social distancing is still paramount.

I want to thank all the families for their understanding this week; the office has seen the most incredible amount of work coming in as we try to establish plans for closure. The three phone lines into the school have been constantly in use, so thank you for your patience.

I will keep in regular contact via email during the closure, but wish you all well. Keep healthy and look after each other.

Best wishes

Mrs Sarah Horbury Jakeman
Head Teacher