



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Temporary Closure of Queensway School

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that all schools in England will close temporarily for the vast majority of children from end of the day on Friday 20th March.

This decision has been taken on the advice of medical and scientific experts in order to manage the spread of COVID-19 and relieve pressure on the health system.

From Monday 20th March, pupils' education will continue from home.

We have prepared well for these circumstances so that all pupils can continue their education from home during the closure. We have updated the class blogs with recommended websites and activity ideas. I am extremely grateful to staff across the school for the way in which they have taken on this challenge and kept the school going this week in a calm and professional manner.

The School will, however, remain open for two specific groups of pupils:

- Those whose parents are defined as key workers (employed in the NHS, emergency services or elements of the food supply chain) and are unable to source alternative childcare plans. We are awaiting the formal definition from Government of Key Workers.
- Those who are particularly vulnerable.

I would ask that parents who believe they fall into the category of key workers and who haven't yet contacted the school to do so by no later than 9 am on Friday 20th March via the school office so that we can arrange for your child to continue to attend school.

We have been identifying those pupils who are in the second category and have been contacting their parents and carers separately to confirm your child's attendance. If you believe your child falls into this latter category and you have not heard from us by 9am on Friday 20th March, please contact us.

The Government has also decided that no external exams will take place this academic year and SATS will therefore not be going ahead.

We have also been contacting families who are entitled to Free School Meals to outline alternative plans we can offer. If you think you fall into this category and haven't been contacted please let us know by Friday at 9am.

Over the next few days we will be in a position to update you further and provide additional information on ways we will be able to support your child during this time. We will be doing everything we can to deliver whatever is required of us by Government.

We will likewise be ensuring that Year 6 pupils' transition to secondary school will be handled appropriately and, in due course, I will update parents fully on this.

We are entering times of further uncertainty, speculation and concern and our responsibility as a school, like yours as a parent, is to give our children the learning, support and reassurance that they will need in the coming weeks.

We will continue to update parents on a regular basis with important information as we receive it. We will continue to communicate with you by email but please do regularly check on the school's website.

Thank you for your continued support and for working with us in the weeks ahead.

Best wishes

Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman
Head Teacher