

UPDATE 19.03.20



Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils**

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories. We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to.

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

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'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by our usual communication channels.

**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.

- Homelearning Packs will be sent home Friday
- If you aren't in school to receive those please contact school to arrange collection of those
- Other homelearning activities will be posted on the schools website and/or via parent mail by class teachers
- <https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/teaching-learning/learning-zone/>
- Phonics support at home: The website Phonics Play have announced that they are supporting families in this difficult time. There are interactive games, resources and support for parents on the site. It's a fantastic site which we use in school.

<https://new.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Username: march20

Password: home

If your child usually receives free school meals and you need support with this please contact the school office and we will let you know how we can help.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's going to be challenging, but we'll 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 via email or feel free to telephone us.

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

Kind regards,  
Kay Hanson  
Headteacher

### Top Tips to establishing a balanced learning routine at home

Routines will be important. Here are some suggested ideas to help families create a happy learning routine at home. Please note these are just ideas and you can arrange your routines as suit you and depending on your circumstance.

#### **How can I get them to behave the same as they do at school?**

Sit down as a whole family and agree on some ground rules that work for you all. Use the school motto as a starting point: Together Everyone Achieves More

Agree on the physical space where they will learn (e.g. kitchen/dining room table), the physical space where you need to work and spaces where they can play

Agree on what they will need and use to learn (pencils, colouring pencils, paper etc)

#### **What will a typical day look like?**

It will be important and tricky to keep some of the school routines at home and that your children understand that being at home during the period that school is closed is not the same as being on holiday.

**Create a family timetable. Keep it simple. Here are some ideas to help you create a timetable.**

1. Daily, short, independent tasks, such as every day...
  - Encourage your child to read for 10-20mins
  - Encourage your child to practise their handwriting (copying something into their handwriting) for 10-20mins
  - Encourage your child to practice counting (anything- lego bricks, small toys) / doing number bonds, doing Times Table Rock Stars for 10-20 mins
  - Daily reflective diary to record thoughts and feelings during this time (10-20mins)
  
2. Some longer daily tasks that might need a bit of parent support (20 mins to 1 hour – depending on the age and concentration of the children)
  - Use the ideas from the school website in the learning zone to start a piece of writing
  - Try some maths challenges
  
3. And then identify some chunks of time (about an hour) on different days to start work on a project
  - Investigating something related to the history/geography topic
  - Trying a science challenge at home. Here is a really good link <https://www.science-sparks.com/summer-science-challenges/>
  - Drawing/painting
  - Making a model
  - GANAS style projects

**Make sure there is time built in for breaks, lunch, play, physical activity, creativity and social activity**

Here some ideas that could help with these vital aspects of time away from directed learning tasks:

- Mindfulness, wellbeing (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shR8DLyOkcg>)
- Lots and lots Play (outside in the garden, inside with lego, cars, dolls, bricks, play dough, board games, cards- encourage siblings to play together, jigsaw puzzles)
- Daily dance
- Daily singing
- Mindful colouring in
- Daily call/face time to family and friends
- Musical instrument practice
- Indoor gymnastic/warm up stretches/yoga
- Cooking/baking/gardening
- Outside walk, respecting social distancing measures