

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Newsletter- Update COVID-19 (2)

Wednesday 18th March 2020

Dear families,

The Government have announced that all schools in England will close on Friday 20th March at 3.15pm. They have set out guidance to allow a small number of children to still attend and Springvale will be adhering very carefully to this guidance. This will allow key staff who have no potential childcare solutions, with roles in society that make a significant difference at this difficult and unprecedented time, to continue to carry out their vital roles. This guidance is to be published tomorrow and will be shared accordingly with all families as soon as possible. If parents feel that they can and will keep children away from school despite featuring in the guidance, we assume that this is acceptable as the aim of the 'closure' is to minimise the risk of spreading infection for all pupils and staff.

We will now be providing detailed home learning for each year group via email on a Monday (we will print and post paper copies where requested; please be mindful of our costs and protecting the environment.) The quality of said home learning will depend on how many pupils we have in school as we will have limited staff to provide both face-to-face and online learning- as you have seen, our excellent staff have done their best to provide both this week in testing circumstances!

Please note that we have set up a new website section at: <https://springvaleprimary.org/curriculum/> This page will be updated over the coming weeks. Please visit daily or use the suggested websites while children are learning at home. It is vital that children read, use numbers and practise their writing each and every day.

Changes from Monday 23rd March 2020

1. School will be open from 8.45am to 3.15pm each day. It will not be a legal requirement to attend so flexible drop off and collection around working hours will be allowed but should be avoided where possible. Suggestions in the DfE email that we may stay open during Easter are unlikely at present but will be explored. Being a PFI school (privately owned building) may make this more complex. More on that in the near future, I'm sure.
2. Parents should drop off and collect children from the Main Reception. Parents should not enter the school building beyond the collection area at any time. Please call or email us with any messages or concerns for teaching staff or leaders. No visitors will be allowed in to school at this time either.

3. Only children with confirmed 'key worker status' or those with a significant level of special educational needs will be allowed to attend school- guidance to be shared tomorrow once confirmed but parents can email us if they feel that they will be on this list AND that they will want/need the support. We do not wish to have a constantly changing register at this complex time- we hope to have a definitive group organised for Monday and that this will run until the situation improves to re-open our school and/or we receive further guidance. This is the only way to ensure that we can provide appropriate staffing levels and the required quality of guidance and care.

Telling us that you would be likely to need this support doesn't guarantee that we can provide this but it would help us to start to plan NOW! Please only consider children coming to school if it is completely needed to support your vital work. Current advice should be followed carefully re: self-isolation and children may be sent home if they present as unwell, etc. Also, families currently self-isolating must complete their current course of absence (14 days from first instance for the whole family) before starting EVEN if they are applicable to the new limited schooling regulations.

4. Depending on numbers we will make adjustments to the amount of staffing we need, the amount of spaces that we use and possibly even the curriculum. If we have a very small number of pupils we may provide a blend of the same home learning opportunities that all children will receive and other creative activities. We will not be teaching additional 'new' learning to the smaller group as this is unfair to their peers and will create a two-tiered approach to our curriculum planning when we return as a fully operational school.

Thank you for your support at this very challenging time.

Regards
Mr L McClure
Head