

19th March 2020

Dear Parents

As you know from the news, schools will be closed from Monday for the majority of children. We do not have an end date and there is uncertainty for all of us.

We have many ways of making sure that learning can happen remotely and you will have materials at home to make sure this situation has no long term negative impact on your children. Learning from countries that have been in this situation, best practice suggests structure during school official days. This means maintaining times to get up and dressed and a learning timetable etc. Obviously you will be juggling balls yourself, so we hope we can set activities and use ICT so that children can work independently.

To achieve this, we have set up Google Classroom and we need all children to have a go tonight at logging on and accepting invites to classes - some children will have two e.g. maths groups. Miss Appleby has put together a prompt for parents to follow. This can be found on the school website.

There is a 'School Closure' tab and you will find general information in the policies folder within this tab. Set work will be in the class folders within this tab. However, the best way to access learning will be google classrooms. We have two days to make sure children in school can do this. **Those not in school already need to have a go at home and I ask you to email to let us know of any issues – email homelearning@sir-robert-gefferys.cornwall.sch.uk**

All passwords were sent home last week and other activities can certainly be undertaken - science and French on Education City for example. If you have not got logins for anything let us know (on the above email address) and we will email them to you in the next two days.

It will be vital that key workers can continue to work and at present the full list and definition is not known. However, we are looking at our solution and have already been in contact with Pre-school and other schools to put together options for our local area. We know that in some households both parents maybe key workers and in others only one so they would not need provision. The other group that have been highlighted is vulnerable children and this is more difficult to define because children can be vulnerable for a variety of reasons.

Our intention is that every child will receive a phone call at least every week from their teacher or teaching assistant or familiar adult so that any queries can be answered and news shared. We will be making these calls in the mornings from 9-11 and to a different year group each day. Some children will be visited by members of our team and reading books exchanged etc. Staff will not come into houses but exchange things from the doorstep.

Nic and Susan have/will be giving out letters to the children they see regularly for support with emotional issues about staying in touch by email, and we would encourage the children to do this. However, that offer of support is available to anyone within the school community who feels worried or has concerns and their emails are on the contacts list too.

To be able to finalise plans over the next 24 hours, please can you ring school or email me on head@sir-robert-gefferys.cornwall.sch.uk to let me know the following:

1. You are in the category of a key worker - at present defined as NHS staff, shop workers, police, delivery drivers, fire brigade (a full list will be issued by the Government later today) and will require child care provision so that you can continue to work. I know some will have made alternative provision or have a second parent at home etc. If that is the case also let us know so I do not have to do follow up with phone calls to check etc.
2. You consider your child vulnerable and would want some child care/learning provision on a school site.
3. You are eligible for free school dinners (not KS1 provision for all but means tested) and would like packed lunch or food of some type supplied if possible.

The next few days are going to be a time of informing and planning, but queries will be answered after this so email addresses are published for all teachers on the 'School Closure' tab on the website. As always I will be responding to emails myself as quickly as possible.

We know things will be different and it may seem exciting to some children to begin with, but with less to entertain them and if they cannot socialise and exercise easily it will become a challenge for all. For these reasons alone it is good to set up a structured approach from the start. We would certainly be recommending only supervised and limited use of Play Station games etc, as on a daily basis, children communicating through them causes issues. We also strongly recommend that no inappropriate age restricted games are permitted as we have had children communicating inappropriately unbeknown to parents. With more time at home for everybody there is more opportunity for children to be groomed etc. Please keep your children safe, they are often more savvy than you think.

We sincerely hope that all can stay fit and healthy and our thoughts and prayers will be with you all. Regular communication will be vital, so please let us know if there is anything you need or if you need more guidance or more reading books so that SRG word count reaches record levels etc. Also please advise us if your family is affected by this virus so that we are aware of what our children are going through.

As a Headteacher I have never had training or had ever considered how to run schools and learning remotely, so please do bear with us as we refine information and fine tune systems over the next week.

Keep safe
Kind regards



Mrs Julie Curtis
Headteacher

