

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Tomorrow school will close at 3.30pm until further notice, except for the children of key worker, children who have a social worker or children with an EHCP.

Key workers

Until the Department for Education has confirmed which roles are specifically covered by the term Key Worker, our school will use the following criteria:

- Health sector workers
- Supermarket staff
- Food delivery workers
- School/ sixth form college or pre-school staff
- Social workers, nursery nurses, educational psychologists, and therapists (e.g. occupational therapists) employed by local authorities, CAFCASS or the NHS
- Emergency services providers i.e. fire brigade and police
- Local Authority Children's Services employees
- Royal Mail employees
- Military employees
- Utility workers
- Sanitation and refuse workers.

The Government guidance states that school will be available to households where either both parents are key workers, or for key worker single parent households. If this applies to you and there are no other adults who can look after your children, please let us know by 2pm on Friday March 20th by emailing info@arkbentworthprimary.org. If you do not email, we cannot guarantee a place for your child. Once we have confirmation that you will send your child to school, we will send you a form for you to complete giving details of your Key Worker role and place of work.

As this is such a fast changing situation, we will ask parents to confirm they want to use this service on a weekly basis – we are calling the service our 'Community Classroom.' Please note that this service is not a drop-in service – we will need to plan in advance who will be on site.

Assessments

The following assessments planned between April and July 2020 are cancelled:

- end of key stage 1 and key stage 2 assessments (including tests and teacher assessment)

- phonics screening check
- multiplication tables check
- science sampling tests

The Secretary of State for Education says he will provide further information soon for students who are impacted. As soon as we have this information, we will share it with you.

Free school meals

We will make sure that families of students who are not attending our 'Community Classroom' and qualify for Free School Meals receive vouchers for purchasing food. We will be in touch as soon as they are ready for distribution.

Additionally, we are looking at ways of providing breakfast food packs for collection from next week.

Learning at home

We have been working hard for several weeks to put in place contingency plans to ensure students can still access work and teachers are able to support their learning.

Work will be set and shared via DB Primary we will keep in touch with pupils through this secure online platform. Additionally, we will provide packs of work each week. If you have not received your child's first pack, they will be available for collection on Friday 20th March at 2pm-3pm from the front playground. Please do not come to the school outside of these hours for collection as we are trying to minimise the amount of visitors in our front office.

You will be able to contact class teachers directly during our closure period via email. The details will be shared on a curriculum newsletter, which will be sent via email tomorrow.

Thank you for your support and understanding during these exceptional circumstances. It has been an unsettling time, yet I am confident we will continue to work together to face the challenging times ahead. If we can do anything more to help your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kindest regards

Karinne Faddy

Head of School