



**Ark Bentworth  
Primary Academy**

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Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are well. With the school now closed, I just wanted to provide you with an update on our current plans. Last night, the Government released stricter measures for managing the coronavirus. It is essential everyone does their part by staying home.

### **Community Classroom**

The Government guidance asks that parents should keep children at home wherever possible. Thank you for following this advice. The fewer children making the journey to school and the fewer children in our Community Classrooms, the lower the risk of the virus spreading.

Our Community Classroom is here to provide care for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers only. Children whose parents are critical workers need to meet ALL the following conditions:

- The parent must be in a critical role based on government advice; and
- The parent must have had confirmation from their employer that their specific role is necessary for the continuation of essential public service; and
- Their child cannot otherwise be cared for safely at home.

To check if your child is vulnerable or if your role is critical please follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If your child falls into these categories and you intend to send them into school, you must email [info@arkbentworthprimary.org](mailto:info@arkbentworthprimary.org) so we can plan our staffing. This is such a fast-changing situation we will ask you on a weekly basis to confirm if you want to send your child into school.

The Community Classroom runs from 8.45-3.30pm. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided. Children need to wear their school uniform and bring in their home learning packs to complete while in school.

### **School office**

Currently the school office is closed. If you wish to speak to the office you will need to call 07771343905. The lines will be open Monday to Friday from 8.45 to 3.30.

*Aiming High, Achieving Together*

## **Food vouchers**

We offered free breakfast food for collection yesterday. Unfortunately with the change in Government advice last night, we will not be able to repeat this until the movement restrictions are lifted.

We will be issuing Tesco vouchers for families who qualify for free school meals. We have been trying to sort this over the last week and as you can imagine there are some delays with so many schools trying to obtain vouchers. If you are entitled to free school meals you should receive an email later today or tomorrow with your voucher. Thank you for your patience regarding this.

To check if you are entitled to free school meals visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

Separate to free school meal vouchers, are food bank vouchers. Food bank vouchers are only for families in crisis who are struggling to put food on the table. They provide three days of emergency meals. The Food Bank is only for families in **extreme need**. You must meet two or more criteria such as: delayed wages, debt, benefit changes, benefit delays, illness or homelessness to be eligible for Food Bank vouchers. Please email [b.wellbeing@arkbentworthprimary.org](mailto:b.wellbeing@arkbentworthprimary.org) if you think you are eligible for Food Bank vouchers.

## **Contact from teachers**

Your child will receive a phone call from their class teacher this week. The teachers will call to check in each week that school is closed. Additionally, you may receive a call from myself, Ms Keeler, Miss Wilkins, Ms Summers, Frank from Place to Be or Miss Brown from West London Zone. We want to try and check in as regularly as possible and help you in any way that we can.

Furthermore, you can contact class teachers directly during our closure period via email. The teacher's email addresses were shared on a curriculum newsletter last week. The curriculum newsletters are also available on our website, along with my letters and all information about our Community Classrooms:

<https://arkbentworth.org/news/school-will-close-friday-20th-march-330pm-until-further-notice>

## **Learning at home**

In light of the new advice from the Government, packs will not be available to collect from school this week. We will be posting packs to you instead. You should receive your next pack by early next week. A text to confirm your child's address will be sent later today. If the address we hold is incorrect or you want your pack sent to an alternative address please email [info@arkbentworthprimary.org](mailto:info@arkbentworthprimary.org)

## **Wellbeing**

Following the Government's announcement last night, I know many of you will be worried about the tighter restrictions and impact this will have on your family. Mentally Healthy Schools have provided a free toolkit with resources and tips to help you address anxiety arising during these challenging times:

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/coronavirus-resources-for-mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

Finally, I just want to thank you all for your understanding during these challenging times. As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are here for you – despite the distance – during this time.

Kindest regards

Karinne Faddy

**Head of School**