King Street Primary & Pre - School

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

Dear Parent/Carer

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. This will be an evidence-based criteria applicable only to those who meet these guidelines. We’ll be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to. Please email the school: [kingstreet@durhamleanring.net](mailto:kingstreet@durhamleanring.net). It would also be helpful if you could advise whether the childcare will be every school day and full or partial days. This will help hugely in our planning as both a school and community.

**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 through our Eschool system.

To ensure your child can continue their educational journey, each class teacher has created a home learning pack that is suitable for your child’s ability. Many of the activities are designed for the child to be able to work through independently but there may be a few of the more challenging activities which will require your support.

The activities set are a mixture of paper-based activities and online activities. This is to ensure that some learning can be accessed regardless of internet access.

As a school, our main focus would be on children reinforcing their understanding of the number system (place value, number bonds, times tables) and also reinforcing their reading skills. Evidence continues to show that children who are frequent readers, who develop fluency and good comprehension skills, are more likely to achieve well across all subjects at GCSE level and become economically successful adults. Therefore, reading regularly is highly recommended- even if these are books your child has already read. One of the resources available to the children is Fiction Express- this opens a wealth of online reading material for your child and many associated activities to help develop comprehension, spelling, punctuation and grammar. Details of this will be provided in the pack.

It is not expected that your child works continuously throughout each day, please judge the breaks they need; you are also welcome to enhance your child’s learning by adding your own games and activities based around the curriculum. Teachers have included in the pack a topic overview from the beginning of the term which you may find useful if you wish to add some of your own ideas around their current topics. The pack is designed to offer work for a significant period of time so please do not feel overwhelmed by the amount of work in the pack. Children are to work through it at their own pace. If school is not closed for an extended period of time, children will not be expected to have completed it all. **However, the whole pack must still be returned to school so it can be monitored by the class teacher as it is likely to form the basis of future learning.**

We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone and that some families will not feel that continuing a child’s education in the current climate is a priority but we must emphasise that children need structure and routine and many of the basic skills require repetitive learning. Please do ensure your child is undertaking learning activities each day.

We hope everyone stays safe and we will be in contact in due course with more information about school closure. Please ensure you continue to use Eschools as a form of contact.

Children who are entitled to free school meals will also receive additional information regarding support. Please do be aware of a scam that is currently circulating, asking for bank details to provide financial support. Do not reply to this. We, nor any other school organisation, will ask for bank details. All communication will be through Eschools.

Finally, I would like to thank all families for the patience they have shown over the last week. We are always following the latest guidance which can change quickly and therefore sometimes decisions need to be made at short notice. I would like to thank staff who have been absolutely amazing in remaining calm and positive- reassuring children and continuing to offer a quality education in very difficult times. They have gone above and beyond to ensure children are safe and provide education packs so learning can continue at home. They really are a fabulous team.

Please stay safe and we will see you all as soon as we have the advice and capacity to do so.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher