

ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Saturday 21st March 2020

Re: School Closures/Government advice/Home learning

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hope this finds you and your family safe and well. I have been overwhelmed by the care and kindness that the wider community of St Chad's have shown to each other over the last few weeks. Thank you again for your ongoing support for the school and all of your messages of positivity in a time of much uncertainty for us all. We will continue to do all we can to support our community and all who are in it.

As you will be aware from previous communications, school is now closed to all pupils except those of keyworkers and pupils with EHCPs who have no alternative.

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

Thank you to you all for completing the survey that the Local Authority provided so quickly so that we can organise registers of attendance and staffing for Monday. We have contacted parents/carers of children attending school on Monday via a separate letter providing further details.

Through the survey, it is clear that there are parents/carers, who despite being keyworkers, have made arrangements for their child to stay at home in line with government advice. We fully understand that this isn't possible for all but wherever possible children should stay at home to help reduce the wider spread of the COVID-19 virus. **The Government have said, 'As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. Schools will remain open only for those children [of keyworkers/with an EHCP] who absolutely need to attend'.**

Free School Meals - Again, thank you for providing details for the school if your child receives Free School Meals/Pupil Premium funding and you wish your child to have a packed lunch delivered to your home while school is closed. We have organised for this to begin on Monday and we will be in touch to arrange delivery. (You will have had to apply for this funding to benefit from this scheme - please see our website for further details).

Collection of belongings - We are fully aware that due to an unexpected closure on Tuesday evening, there are many things in school that children didn't collect like PE kits, medicines, reading books etc. Please contact the school office if you need to collect anything and we will try to arrange this in line with government guidelines.



SATs Assessments - We have received confirmation from the Secretary of State that the 2019/20 national curriculum assessments will not take place due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This means 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
- all statutory trialling.

Teachers will complete teacher assessments for all children and this will be used in its place. This information will be shared with you/your child (and secondary schools if your child is currently in year 6). I know that this may be disappointing for some children given the amount of hard work that has gone into preparing for these tests but we can assure you that we will ensure that you, your child and the secondary school (if your child is in year 6) gets an accurate picture of your child's academic ability that they have shown us in school this year.

Year 6 Leavers - During this uncertain time with the school being shut and no return date being known, we are very aware of the worry that children will not return this academic year. If this should happen, we would like to reassure you that when we do return to normality, even if it is next academic year, we will endeavour to organise a year 6 leavers' event for our current year 6s.

Home learning - As you will know from a previous letter, a pack of learning was sent home on Tuesday for all children. If your child was absent/self-isolating at the time, we have hand delivered or posted packs to you. The home learning section of our website is being updated regularly so please keep checking it for more details <https://www.stchadsprimaryschool.co.uk/home-learning/>. Teachers are also available between 8.30 and 3.30 as previously stated; there will be time allocated for them to maintain their communications with you. As with our 'usual' in-school curriculum, we continue to review our practice so that it is accessible for all. We will be in touch next week to share a more structured timetable for each year group that you may wish to follow to help maintain a routine. Teachers will also be in touch either by dojo or the telephone so that we can keep in touch with you all.

If you want to get in touch at any point, please don't hesitate to do so via the usual routes, telephone, email and dojo. We understand that this is a pressure on all families, but to limit the spread and help each other, we all will have to follow these rules until we are told otherwise.

Remember: if you or your child or anyone you know feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

We will be in touch again next week. In the meantime, please stay safe and know that we are thinking of each and every one of you.

Kind regards,

Steph Jenkins Headteacher

