

ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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School Closures following tonight's announcement from the government

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure you will have watched the announcement at 8pm from the Prime Minister regarding the closure of all schools as from tonight.

As you will imagine, this came as a surprise given the government messages that we have been receiving regarding primary schools over the weekend. Since receiving this message from the government at 8pm this evening, I have been working with local guidance, local schools and our Chair of Governors to make a decision about how to proceed.

As a school, we will be here to support you in this next phase of lockdown. However, this does need some time to plan and organise the remote learning and key worker/vulnerable children who will be entitled to physically come into school. As a result, we have taken the decision, alongside other local schools in our hub, that **we will remain closed to all children regardless of status until Wednesday**. This will enable us to plan remote learning for the majority of children who will be at home and organise key worker/vulnerable groups. Please be advised that some schools are closing for 2 days but we are trying to turn this around in 1 day to minimise the inconvenience for you, albeit you'll appreciate how large the task is.

The list of children whose parents can be classed as key workers has been updated for schools. Please follow the link to this guidance:

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





As with the previous lockdown, school places are for keyworkers who have an essential requirement and no other option as once again, we are in a position where we need to do everything we can to reduce the spread of this virus. Children with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) and children with a social worker will also be able to attend school from Wednesday.

We will begin to accept requests for places for children on this basis from tomorrow morning. We will send further information of how to do this in the morning. Apologies but our text system is currently down so we will need to wait and see if that is fixed before finalising communication arrangements.

More details will be communicated to you all tomorrow lunchtime with plans for the start of online learning for Wednesday for children who are at home.

We will also be in touch with parents of children who receive Free School Meals and notify you of the local authority's plans as soon as possible.

We have not taken this decision lightly and understand the inconvenience this will cause. As a school, we always endeavour to do everything we possibly can in the best interests of our community and will continue to do everything we can to support you and keep our children safe.

Thank you in advance for your patience and continued support.

Steph Jenkins
Headteacher

