



Bishop Stopford's School

Brick Lane, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3PU

Headteacher: Mrs T. Day BA (Hons), NPQH

19th March, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed by the Government to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.** This measure is being introduced to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

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. The Government will, later today, be publishing an extensive list of all those categorised as key workers. **At this point we will be sending you a link to an online survey regarding the occupations of the adults in your household.** This will allow us to plan efficiently to keep the nation's essential front line workers working. If your child falls within the listed vulnerable groups, including those with an EHCP or social worker, I will be writing to you individually to outline next steps.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday 23rd March 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 will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by text and via the school website.

What if my child is due to sit exams?

The Government have not yet issued final advice to schools on exam arrangements. They have said on the one hand that the exams and assessments will not go ahead, but on the other that students will leave school with the qualifications that they need. We do not yet know exactly what this means, although we will continue, as far as possible, to provide online teaching to deliver the National Curriculum and exam content to our students.

Knowledge is strength and we are committed to ensuring that our students continue to learn whether they are in school or at home. As we learn more about the situation for our exam groups, we will let parents and students know.

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we will continue to help your child to learn whilst they are at home.

We will ensure that we set meaningful work for students in all year groups, in line with our contingency planning. Work will be set using the website and the Google Classroom platform. Senior Leaders and I will be monitoring this to ensure high standards of work is being set at all times. We have been working with our students in school over the past week to ensure that they are aware of the systems that will be used so that they can continue with their studies remotely. Further guidance will be sent home to ensure that you as parents are also fully aware of:-

- How to access the Google Classroom platform for your child's year group.
- How work will be set and submitted by our students.
- The school's expectations regarding work completion.

Work packs will be available for those of our students who have informed us that they do not have access to remote learning outside of school.

Will my child still have access to free school meals?

If your child usually receives free school meals, we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the Government has just announced.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via generaloffice@bishopstopfords.enfield.sch.uk.

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

Thank you for the understanding and the support you have given the school staff as the coronavirus situation has unfolded over the past few weeks; it is deeply appreciated. I will continue to keep in close contact with you all and hope that our gates will be open again in the not too distant future.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs T Day, BA (Hons), NPQH
Headteacher

