

**Sir Charles
Parsons
School**



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19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure you are all aware of the announcement made by the government last night that all schools will close from Friday. The announcement also stated that schools would provide childcare for key workers and would still be open for vulnerable young people and those with Education Health and Care (EHC) plans.

This is quite a confusing statement for schools such as ours where all our children and young people have EHC plans. We appreciate the impact closing our school could have on families and students, however the reality of the current situation is that we will not have enough staff to safely meet the needs of all our students. The number of staff able to come into school to work will change, often at very short notice.

We have therefore taken the decision to *partially* close the school to students from 3.30pm on Friday 20th March.

We intend to provide sessions on a daily basis for small groups of students throughout the period of the partial school closure.

This will allow us to maintain better social distancing arrangements, while providing targeted support to families and individual students. We will work alongside our colleagues in health and social care to ensure that we do everything we can to continue to meet the needs of our students at this time.

The sessions provided will be dependent on staffing availability and we will prioritise places for children of key workers.

We will be in touch with families as soon as we can with details of these sessions for individual students. **It is really important that you do not send your child to school except for these identified sessions.**

For those students who are at home, we have prepared materials to help parents keep their children engaged and involved in activities. These materials are on the website and we can send out packs to those families who may have trouble accessing the activities through the internet.

The local authority is putting in place measures to ensure that all children and young people who are entitled to receive free school meals do so, even when not in school. We will share information about this with you as soon as it becomes available.

This is a very difficult and confusing time for us all. It is really important to us as a school that we keep in contact with students and families. As well as contacting you with arrangements for your child to access school, we will keep in regular contact through e-mail and telephone.

Yours sincerely

Karen Hamilton
Head Teacher