



19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We find ourselves in uncharted territory – never has a school closure of this magnitude and potential length been ordered before, in amongst all the other measures that are being put into place to enable social distancing during this coronavirus outbreak. We are doing our utmost to keep on top of everything that is being announced, and put all the necessary plans into place as rapidly as we can. But we do ask for your patience in understanding that some of these things take a little time, and we are sharing information with you as soon as we have it or been able to process it.

School will be shut to children from Monday 23rd March 2020 until further notice.

However, the government is asking us to open in some form for children of key workers and vulnerable families throughout the crisis, in order to keep essential functions for the country running and to provide support for those children and families who most need it. The Government has yet to precisely specify who will be considered as key workers or classified as vulnerable families, they have given some indication but we are waiting on absolute clarity. We will need to follow these directives, and are therefore **unable to offer any provision for any other child** until we re-open as usual.

A number of you got in touch with us yesterday in response to our letter about key workers, as we were trying to pre-empt what might come out from the government – many thanks for this. If you feel that you/your family may fall into these categories and you have not let us know already, please get in touch with us in school as soon as possible.

The provision that we will be putting in place for key worker and vulnerable families will be optional, and will need to be booked in advance through WisePay such that we can organise the necessary staffing. We will be in touch individually with those families for whom this is relevant to discuss and plan it in more detail.

Your child will be bringing home a learning pack either today or tomorrow to support them continuing to work at home. Teachers will also be posting learning activities on the class pages of the school website:

<https://www.keevil.wilts.sch.uk/website/classes/315648>

These should keep you busy for the last two weeks of this term leading up to the Easter Holiday. If the closure extends beyond this, which looks likely, we will move to a model of posting daily learning activities on the class web pages to help you create a routine and rhythm of learning at home. We will also explore other ways that we can continue teaching and supporting learning remotely. We will communicate with you about this in due course.

If your child is no longer at school, please could you organise for someone to come into school tomorrow (Friday 20th March) and collect their learning pack, PE kit and any other items that they may have here.

Throughout all of this we are doing our best to keep everyone safe – the children, you their families and our staff. For some this means that life can continue as normally as possible, for others of us it means we need to care for those who are dependent on us, or we need to protect ourselves in order to stay healthy. We will also endeavour to provide the best learning we possibly can for all the children, but within these very great restraints that are upon us all. It is a time for us all to work together and support wherever we can.

I am afraid I will not be around at the end of the school day today (Thursday 19th March), however I will be in school and contactable all day tomorrow if you have any questions or concerns that you wish to discuss.

Best wishes,
Lindsey Hermon