



19 March 2020

School Closure due to Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

Dear parents and carers,

It has now been announced that all schools in England will close for the majority of pupils at the end of the school day on Friday to reduce the spread of coronavirus. From Monday the school will remain open for children who are vulnerable (are supported by a social worker or have an EHCP) and children whose parents are key workers. The government have not yet clarified a definitive list of which job roles have been classed as key workers, but we are working closely with parents to identify how many children this will affect. We will provide a further update as soon as we are fully informed.

While the school is closed, myself and the other staff are still working and fully committed to supporting the learning of our children. At the time of writing, the closures will be in force until further notice, so we do not know how long the situation will last. During the closure period, I will still be sending home weekly Newsletters with updates and wellbeing support ideas. As a school, we endeavour to keep you informed as much as we can.

Stay Connected

The school office will be remotely staffed. This means that emails will continue to be read and actioned, however you will not be able to contact the school by telephone. Any queries or questions can be sent to admin@andoversford.gloucs.sch.uk and Mrs Armstrong will be able to forward your messages to the relevant person. If you are having any particular difficulties please let us know and we will do our very best to help and support in any way we can. Remember that we do have a Parent Support Advisor, Liz Hamilton, who will be able to offer some pastoral support or signpost you to charities or organisations who can help. We are told that additional information will be available regarding Free School Meals soon.

Home Learning

Teachers will be setting learning activities to be completed by children. Today, we have sent home Maths Workbooks, extra reading resources and an exercise book to help with the recording of any learning. We have prepared packs for all families, so if you are already social distancing or self-isolating, please contact the school office to arrange to collect your pack – we can do this without any contact!

Twice a week class teachers will be using the class webpages to upload work for children. The webpages will be updated with new activities every Monday and Wednesday. This work will include:

- A Maths task
- A link to a Number Sense game or activity
- A Reading Comprehension activity
- A reminder to read with reading book suggestions
- Weekly spellings with a suggested practice activity
- A writing task
- An activity or project linked to the class topic
- A PSHCE based task to focus on wellbeing of pupils, families and the community

We are carefully designing a range of tasks so that they can be completed by as many pupils as possible, but understand that every situation is different and you may not have access to some resources.

Keep some structure

While every family will have different circumstances, for all of us, it is important to try and keep some structure to our days. Each family will have a different approach for how to organise your home learning, but we have put together a suggested timetable which you could follow or adapt to suit your own needs.

Before 9am	Wake up!	Make your bed, eat breakfast, brush your teeth and get dressed
9:00 - 9:30	Outdoor Time	Family Walk or outdoor play
9:30 – 11:00	Academic Time	School work, puzzles, journal
11:00 – 12:00	Creative Learning	No Electronics! Creative play, Lego, craft, music, baking
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch Time	Don't forget to have some playtime too
1:00 – 2:00	Help at Home	Clean rooms, put away toys, pet care etc.
2:00 - 3:30	Academic Time	School Work, Educational games, Online activities
3:30 – 4:00	Outdoor Time	Outdoor Play, Fitness games and activities
4:00 – 6:00	Dinner Time	Family Dinner, Help with Clean-up and dishes
6:00 – 7:00	Reading and Relaxation	Bath-time, Reading and relaxation before Bedtime
	Bedtime	

Useful Resources:

Many great ideas are being shared on social media, so keep an eye on your devices for some inspiration when you are feeling a bit stuck.

- Joe Wicks (The Body Coach) has a series of workouts for children, including Active8 and 5 Minute Move, which are available for free through Youtube. [Click here for access](#).
- Oxford Owl has some fantastic instructional videos to support maths, as well as links to activities, games and other fun activities. <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/maths/>
- eBooks are also available through Oxford Owl for free. You can browse the online library to find books for different ages and also search by bookband: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>
- **100 Things to do Indoors:** this resource has been created by [Spread the Happiness](#)
- Board game recommendations from the Independent. [Click here to read](#)
- Action for Children have shared some ideas of things to do with children – including a recipe for making your own playdough. [Click here to read](#)
- Classroom Secrets have now made resources available for free. <https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/>

Finally, I would like to express my thanks for the support and understanding that parents have shown at this very unsettling and challenging time. These circumstances are completely unprecedented and we are all trying to navigate them as best we can.

Best wishes

Rachel Bradley-McKay

Headteacher

