



Thursday March 19th 2020

PYTHON 4 Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with the deepest sadness and regret that I must update parents today on our next course of action.

Following the government announcement last night that all schools in England will close from Friday, March 20th at 3.20 pm as part of the **COVID 19 national crisis**, West Jesmond school is very sadly closing our doors this week.

We have been asked to arrange and co-ordinate emergency child care provision for the children in families where both parents are **Key Workers** (as defined by the UK government) and where keeping a child at home would cause significant disruption to important national services.

It is critical for us that we know which families will need to access this emergency care provision and what their needs for child care are. I must stress to parents and carers that this is not 'normal education' in this unprecedented national emergency and the current curriculum and testing arrangements, school food standards and specialist provision arrangements have now been suspended for the foreseeable future.

We have created this link to a google form for parents who work in the NHS, emergency services or are delivery drivers to complete.

Should you be eligible and decide that you wish to send your child to emergency child care from Monday March 23rd between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm either full time or part time please can you complete the on-line form and return it to school by **tomorrow lunch-time**.

Can parents please note that this provision may well be provided in another school building within the City, due to emergency staffing, and will be in a mixed age class potentially without constant specialist teacher supervision. Parents will be responsible for transport to and from the designated setting if it is moved to another school setting.

<https://forms.gle/FKCRQTkqHNj1aCif7>

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As school will close on Friday we will be sending a reading book and an exercise book home with children tonight. Please note for hygiene reasons no other equipment will be sent home and all communication from this point on will be online via the school website.

It is a very strange time and not at all how I envisaged this school year or my time at West Jesmond ending. To that effect I have informed the Governing Body, that I will stay on as Head Teacher and lead the school until this crisis is firmly over and a new Head Teacher has been appointed. As I said to the governors " After 10 years of leading the school I could not bear to leave it in this position; I could never just walk away as I love the staff, the children and the community of Jesmond with all my heart".

These are very strange and unsettling times and want to hope that when we return all of this will be long behind us and the brilliant blue skies now being seen in Wuhan and Beijing for the first time in many years, will also greet us as we walk triumphantly back in to school.

With my sincerest love and best wishes for these coming months

G Wallis-Clarke