

The Bishops' C of E Learning Academy

Faith to Belong, Believe, Aspire and Achieve

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Date

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

Re: Coronavirus update

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday 20th March until further notice.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers and children with certain needs. The loose definition of a key worker from yesterday's press conference was NHS staff, police, others in frontline services and children with certain needs (those with an Education Health Care Plan EHCP) or those pupils who have an allocated social worker.

We are still waiting for the government to publish the **actual criteria**, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories. Please email secretary.the-bishops@tlat.org.uk or phone 01637 876317. We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to and **confirm with you by the end of Friday 20th March**.

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'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know by all the normal methods.

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

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn. Our school website details our 'distance learning' package which will be updated every school day by the class teachers. Follow the links to your child's class from:

https://www.the-bishops.cornwall.sch.uk/web/class_pages_and_distance_learning

Please continue to use **Class Dojo** to message your child's teacher. My intention is to allow you, the parent/ carer to as far as possible, replicate a typical timetable for your son or daughter every day. Class teachers have uploaded suggested timetables of learning activities to complete during the day.



Without being presumptuous, I would encourage you to insist that your son or daughter operates a school day (with obvious differences) by utilising the learning available and at the same time as their normal lessons. Evidence shows that over a prolonged period of time a clear structure for young people has many advantages. This is important as I have asked all staff to equally work on a school day basis. The expectations and boundaries for this are that I would expect regular communication as far as possible from the staff and equally ask you to respect the timing of any particular questions from your son/ daughter to be in the normal working day. All lessons will have some learning and activity, including PE where a practical, home-based physical activity will be offered; clearly this will exclude holiday periods.

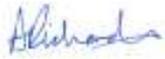
If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government is just putting in place (please note we are yet to hear whether this includes the universal free school meals that ALL infants receive, or just those who would be eligible through their financial circumstances).

We understand that this latest news will have a huge impact on you and your family. This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation.

We will continue to keep in touch through all our usual communication channels with any updates.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Richards', is positioned above the printed name.

Adam Richards
Headteacher