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Mrs Theresa Thornton
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Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers, Colleagues and Governors,

As I am sure you are aware, yesterday the Government announced that all schools will be closed from Monday 23rd of March until further notice. This means that for the majority of our children, Friday will be their last day in school for what could be a considerable period of time.

I hope you can understand and support the actions we are taking as a school, to play our part in helping our community tackle Coronavirus and the significant impact it is having upon us all.

The Government has confirmed that for the foreseeable future, all schools have been asked to provide care for children with Education Health Care Plans, Children who have a contact Social Worker, e.g., 'Children in Need' or those on the Child Protection Register and any Children in Care (LAC). **All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday 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.

In order to enable key workers to remain at work during this period of need their children may be catered for in schools. **This is only the case where both parents are key workers.** Key Workers include:

- NHS staff
- Teachers and support school
- Police and community support officers
- Frontline civilian police staff
- Prison officers and staff
- Probation officers and trainee prob officers
- LA officers and LA/ NHS social workers
- Uniformed staff in fire and rescue services
- Armed forces personnel and some civilian MOD personnel (ie clinical staff, MOD police, uniformed fire and defence) and some discharged personnel
- Highway agency traffic staff
- LA environmental health officers/practitioners
- Care workers
- Food/supermarket drivers and other workers
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Please complete the attached proforma and return to the school office should you fall into the Key Worker category.

If children do not fall into one of the categories above they will not be in school. We know this will be a difficult period for everyone, and we want to offer our support. Our teachers have been putting together education packs, resources and activities for pupils to complete, and we will also provide a wide range of sources for information and learning that can be accessed electronically.

The Education Secretary has confirmed that they will not go ahead with primary school assessments or secondary exams this summer, which includes SATs, GCSE and A Level examinations. I appreciate that





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this news will be very concerning for our students and that you and they will have a number of questions that you want answering. At this time all we know is that the Government is working with the sector and Ofqual to ensure our students get the qualifications they need and deserve. We are told that more details will be given out on Friday as to how students would be awarded grades in the absence of exams.

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 has just announced.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

Please remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use NHS 111 online.

I wish to thank all our school staff, volunteers, and Governors who have helped in recent days to keep the school open, and who will continue to do so over the coming months. I would also like to thank you for your continued support and understanding during this period.

Kindest Regards,

Mrs Theresa Thornton

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