

# Westacre Infant School



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Dear Parents and Carers,

The following information and guidance has been taken directly from the relevant sources.

## **Coronavirus: UK schools to close to prevent virus spread**

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said that schools in the UK will **close by this Friday** to prevent the further spread of coronavirus.

Schools will close except for looking after the children of keyworkers and vulnerable children.

Exams will not go ahead, education secretary Gavin Williamson has said.

## **Next steps**

It is clear that education and children's social care settings are increasingly finding it difficult to continue as normal, as illness and self-isolation impacts on staffing levels and pupil attendance. To provide parents, student and staff with the certainty they need we are announcing that schools, colleges and early years settings will be closed to everyone except children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday, as part of the country's ongoing response to coronavirus.

Examples of these workers include NHS staff, police and delivery drivers who need to be able to go to work. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans.

A full list of key worker categories will be published by the Cabinet Office tomorrow.

## **Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care.**

Where schools are unable to provide this reduced provision, local authorities will work with the Department for Education's regional teams to ensure an alternative option is available.

We are expecting early years providers and sixth form and further education colleges to do the same. We are working with Her Majesty's Treasury on the financial support required. We are also asking that independent schools and boarding schools follow the same approach.

Where possible, we would encourage settings to stay open for this purpose throughout the Easter holidays.

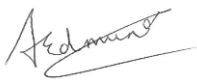
I am working closely with Mrs Webster-Smith to ensure that we are doing all we can to support our community, families and colleagues. If you meet the criteria for a key worker then we will be open on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 to support your children. We are considering Breakfast Club, Tea Time Club and normal schools hours. We are meeting with staff tomorrow to identify the capacity we have to facilitate our plans. We are also considering the option of lunch for our children that are entitled to Free School Meals or who are in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding.

If you intend to send your children into school on Monday because you meet the criteria or you would benefit from our lunchtime facilities, then I urge you to call school after 9:30 a.m. to confirm this with myself or Mrs Hinett.

More than ever before, our children and everyone within our community and beyond are going to need us to support each other and see this through. If you need anything or need to discuss anything then please just ask.

If you are at present self-isolating or you have chosen to remain at home with your family, then please follow the guidance being provided daily by the Government and take the very best of care.

See you all soon,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aid Edmunds', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Aidan Edmunds

Headteacher