



St Mary Magdalene C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Miss S Robinson

18.3.20

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Further Partial Closure due to Coronavirus

Thank you again for all your support with the current situation around Coronavirus. I would like to reassure you that I am doing everything that I can to keep the school open whilst considering the health and safety of children, staff and families. Government guidelines to stop non-essential contact with others, especially for vulnerable groups, remains in place. In order to ensure that we are following the government's advice, as of today, I have now had to direct ten members of staff to work from home.

As a result of these reduced staffing levels, in addition to the existing closure to Y1 and Foundation stage, I will also regrettably have to close the school to Year 5 as from tomorrow (19.3.20). As planned, work for all these classes will be set on Microsoft Teams. Please see guidance on the website for accessing this work. If you are unable to access this online, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can put alternative measures in place for you. As I said yesterday, further partial closures may have to be put in place as the situation changes and we will continue to prioritise key assessment year groups (Y2, Y6) moving forward. I apologise that we have had to take this additional step as I realise it causes great inconvenience to families.

I am aware that families who access free school meals for their children may be particularly disadvantaged by our partial school closure. From this Friday, we will be providing food boxes containing staples such as pasta, rice and fresh fruit to support these families in Foundation Stage, Y1 and Y5. In the event of a full school closure, it is our intention to offer this to all year groups. We will send out a separate letter to families that this concerns, however if you think you may require this support and do not currently access free school meals, please contact us as soon as possible.

This is a difficult situation and it is hard predict what steps the government will take in the coming days. In addition to government guidance, we are also receiving daily updates from our MAT and the DFE. To reiterate **we are open to Years 2, 3, 4, & 6 on Thursday 19th March 2020**. I will keep you informed about any further developments. The latest guidance from Public Health England can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

Thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes
Miss Robinson