



FAIRLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pound Avenue
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 3JA

19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Urgent Coronavirus Update – School Closure from Friday 20th March 3:15pm

I am sure many of you will have watched the broadcast from the government yesterday evening, which has advised **all schools in England to close on Friday 20th March** to the majority of pupils in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

We will then only be open from Monday 23rd March to provide childcare for a small number of pupils: those of key workers and the most vulnerable (those currently with an Education, Health & Care Plan or currently linked to a social worker).

I am disappointed to tell you that, at the time of writing, there is no clarity from the government about precisely who qualifies as a 'key worker'. I am sure this is coming soon and we will share further precise information when it is published.

As a school, we have been working today to understand the implications of this latest development and prepare for closure on Friday. During the period of closure, I am pleased to say that, if your child is normally eligible for free school meals (not Universal Infant FSM), **the government has pledged funding for food vouchers** and we are working hard to find a process to get these vouchers to you early next week.

We have also been ensuring that the children have everything they need for an extended period away from school, keeping themselves safe and most importantly, we have been reassuring them that we want them back at school as quickly as possible! Please make sure you guide your child to look at our new **Home Learning Blogs** for each year group – these will appear weekly and give you and your child plenty of ideas of things to be getting on with, online and offline, based around our **CHAT, PLAY, READ** approach to home learning.

We have also been preparing for our new childcare role from Monday. Firstly, we need to make an initial attempt to understand the numbers of families **with parents who are key workers and who do not otherwise have access to childcare.** If you believe both parents are key workers or you are a key worker and a single parent and wish to use our school's provision, you will need to notify us as soon as possible, so that we can ensure adequate provision is in place from Monday. **Please complete the survey here <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9PTQX73>** to submit your application for childcare and we will contact you to discuss your eligibility. We are aiming to continue our wrap-around care services from 7.45am to 6.15pm, and will communicate with you separately about this once we have confirmed you are eligible.

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Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers at Fairlands for your words, messages and emails of encouragement and support. I can tell you that these few kind words mean the whole world to us right now.

I also want to thank all the staff personally for their ongoing commitment, positivity and resilience. It is an absolute joy and a privilege to work alongside such a vibrant team of professionals. We are so lucky to have every single one of them.

This terrible situation is both dividing and joining us as a community in equal measure... but I truly believe we will come through the experience stronger and even more determined in our shared purpose to be REACHING HIGH and building the best future for our children.

I do wish you all good health in the coming weeks.



Robert Staples
Headteacher