



Virus bulletin 2. Update for families

20.3.2020

Summary:

School closed for **all children** on Monday 23rd March for:

- Deep cleaning
- Allocating places for those who need it the most and defining the rationale for that
- Prioritising numbers and qualifications of key staff who need to be in school
- Complete parent survey as soon as practically possible if you wish your child/ren to be considered for care during the school closure <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/T2X2HZL>

Reassurances about priorities of safety and following government guidelines

Dear families,

We received notification of the guidance for school closure around midnight on 19th March. We are now tasked with ensuring that we provide care to those in school who fit the eligibility criteria. And we need to do that in a way that is most effective, fair, transparent, manageable and safe.

Seeing the big picture. Taking a long-term, robust approach

I have taken the decision to close our school to **all children** on **Monday the 23rd March**, just for that day, as the allocation of places needs to be done in a carefully considered way with clear rationale.

It is apparent from government guidance that there is some flexibility and we intend to work carefully to be able to make the most important decisions, not just for our children, but for the safety of our staff and community too. This needs to be absolutely right as it would be hugely unfair for any child who was allowed to come in on Monday to be told subsequently that his or her needs were no longer considered a priority.

Please bear with us as we try to get this right for all concerned.

Let me state clearly, for the avoidance of doubt, the government's wishes:

"Many parents working in the critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be."

"This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so"

Government documents giving advice for parents will be posted on the class Facebook pages as soon as is practically possible.

Parental survey

We would ask you to complete a brief survey so that you can tell us the most relevant information that will allow us to make robust decisions. Please answer the questions honestly, and if your situations change please understand that at times in the future we may need to amend or adapt our offer depending on the school's capacity as well as the needs of other children and families. Please ensure your responses are accurate and complete it as soon as practically possible. We will be monitoring responses as soon as they come through, aiding us in our decision-making. There will be difficult decisions to make, but these are exceptional circumstances and, in discussion with my chair of governors as well as the senior leaders in

school, our decisions regarding individual children will be final. We are entering uncertain times and there may be scenarios ahead where we have only enough staff in school to safely care for a small number of children. Therefore we must prioritise those **most** in need — not least the needs of the health care workers who are saving lives during this crisis.

Holiday opening

We have already made arrangements with Little Angels during the school holiday period so that all eligible families will be able to continue to be supported during the school holiday at Easter. More details will be shared with eligible families in the next few days once we have assessed the situation fully.

I would like to wish all of you a safe few weeks during the time that we are all apart. We will be thinking carefully about the ways we communicate with you during that period and ensuring that we do as much as we safely can as a staff team to keep you sane while you and your children are at home! Thank you so much again for the support that you have shown to everyone in recent days. We really appreciate it and we are really looking forward to seeing everyone when we can open again.

Kind regards and best wishes to you all

Debbie Wylie