

Subject: Daily update 19 03 2020

Date sent: 19th March 2020, 3:15pm

Great Barford C of E Primary Academy

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last night the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education announced that schools are to close at the end of tomorrow, Friday 20th March 2020, except for the children of key workers (as defined by the Government) and pupils deemed vulnerable.

At this stage we don't know how long this closure will be for but we are working on the assumption that it is likely to be for some time, and we are planning for the eventuality that it may last throughout the summer term.

We have been working on contingency plans in anticipation of this announcement and with two weeks of term time remaining, we want to reassure you that we will do our best to provide learning at home.

This means that it is vital that your child attends school for the rest of this week to ensure they have the appropriate resources and tools for their home learning.

From Monday 23rd March the school will be open for our most vulnerable (those who have an Education Health Care plan (EHCP) or have current social care involvement) and children of key workers such as those whose parents are on the front line with the fight against the virus in the NHS, emergency services, social workers, teachers and school workers, care workers and those involved in the delivery of our vital supply chains including those who work in supermarkets and food stores.

We asked you today to let us know if you fall into one of these categories. If you have not done that yet please email admin@gbpa.org.uk as soon as possible

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday 23rd March 2020 until further notice.

This is a really challenging situation for everyone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by email, text and via the school website

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

We will plan work for each class for each week we are closed and the school was due to be open. This will consist of activities and challenges, some worksheets and links to online Apps and resources. If your child does not have access to a tablet, laptop or PC please let us know so we can adjust the work that is sent for them.

We have set up a tab on the school website (it is currently hidden but it will be visible by Monday 23rd March) called School Closure Resources. In here there will be folders for each year group where you will find the work that has been set

We do expect the children to complete the work set at home. Teachers will be able to monitor some of the online work during the closure. Paper or project based work will need to be kept and, depending on the length of time the school is closed, we will request all or a proportion of it to be handed in at school on your child's return. The usual marking scheme and protocols for this work as outlined in our marking and feedback policy will not be adhered to for this work but the work returned will be used by the teachers to assess where

the children are in terms of achievement and progress when they return to school.

If you feel you need to contact a teacher during the period of school closure, please do so via the admin@gbpa.org.uk email address.

What we won't be able to go ahead with

School trips

Residential visits (further communication about this to follow next week)

After school clubs

IEP meetings (communication from the SENDCo to follow next week)

Music lessons on site (some teachers may contact you about continuing with these out of school)

Breakfast, after-school and holiday clubs

Social Events

[The Secretary of State for Education announced](#) yesterday

curriculum assessments will not take place due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This means the following assessments planned between April and July 2020 are cancelled:

- end of key stage 1 and key stage 2 assessments (including tests and teacher assessment)
- phonics screening check

- multiplication tables check
- science sampling tests
- all statutory trialing

Primary school performance measures will not be published for the 2019/20 academic year.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with us 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.

If you want to get in touch, please don't hesitate to do so via admin@gbpa.org.uk.

I will be in touch again tomorrow.

Kind regards,

Sarah Evans

Headteacher

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.