



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Head of School: Jonathan Souter

5 January 2021

School Closure – January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

We had been fully prepared and were looking forward to welcoming back our Key Stage 2 children today after their Christmas break, however following the Prime Minister's announcement late last night that the Country is back in full lockdown and subsequently all schools are closed, that is now unfortunately not the case. Arrangements for children in Years 5 and 6 will now be the same as those already set out for children in Years 7 and 8, with work set online through Google Classroom. As we were expecting Year 5 and Year 6 in school today, this will fully come into effect from tomorrow (Wednesday 6th January) for them, although some work has already been set in those year groups along with the work set from today in Key Stage 3 classes. The children should have their diaries at home with all password information that is needed. Please contact school if there are any issues with online accounts or access to ICT equipment and we will do our utmost to help.

Provision in school for children of Critical Workers.

As explained in recent email communications, we have provision on site for the children of critical workers and some other children in each year group. Information can be found on the Government website around who can access schools or educational settings during the closure at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>. Due to the fact that the provision applies only to those who meet the criteria, we may be required to ask for proof that the conditions have been met by any parent requesting a place in the provision.

From Wednesday 6th, the start and finish times of the provision for the children of Critical Workers has changed. The timings are different to the usual school day and are similar to the arrangements that were in place during the previous lockdown. They are as follows:

Year 5: Arrive 8:50am. End of day 3:00pm
Year 6: Arrive 9:00am. End of day 3:10pm
Year 7: Arrive 8:50am. End of day 3:00pm
Year 8: Arrive 9:00am. End of day 3:10pm

All children attending the current provision should enter the site through the main gate. This is possible now due to the numbers attending and the staggered start times.

The children should also arrive in school wearing non-uniform; they should wear comfortable clothing and trainers if possible. Children should attend in clean clothes on the next day (this should include their coat) where possible.

Can we please also respectfully remind parents that:

- **No equipment should be brought into school** - children will be provided with all the necessary stationery that they will need and it will be theirs to use throughout this period.
- **Children should bring in a packed lunch each day**, as school meal preparation facilities are currently closed.
- **Children should bring in a pair of headphones which can be plugged into a laptop** (if they have them)

- Parents are asked not to walk their children to the school gate to avoid congregation points and to minimise contact with others.
- Parents are reminded not to drop children off outside the school gates if arriving by car. Please park at a safe distance and ask your child to walk the remainder of the journey.
- Parents must not come onto school premises without an appointment.
- Parents contact school in the usual way if their child is absent on any day they are due to be in school.

As in the previous lockdown, information will regularly be sent out to parents and uploaded on the school website at <https://www.svf.org.uk/news/2021-01-05-covid-19-updates>. Please check this page often in case messages are missed. We would also respectfully request that parents and carers update contact information when it changes in order to ensure messages can be received.

As a community we are once again into the unknown. However, as a school we are much better prepared this time and will continue to work hard to support all of our children, families and staff. As always, please stay safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely

Mr J K Souter
Head of School