



17th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Partial school closure

Today we have had a large number of staff notifying us that they should be self-isolating based on the latest government guidelines, with some either having been sent home or asked to return home by family members. By tomorrow, this will reduce our staffing capacity by up to 70%. In these circumstances we would usually seek to close the school. We are very aware of the impact this would have and therefore we are proposing to open our school to a limited number of students only. This will be determined by parents identifying which of the following categories best describes their current circumstances:

A. Parents Supporting Home Learning

Where possible we are encouraging families to keep their children at home and support with their learning if they are well enough to do so. All staff will be uploading resources onto Class Charts on a daily basis with clear guidance available to parents on the school's website.

B. Students in receipt of Free School Meals

The school will contact families directly to discuss your individual circumstances and if needed, offer continued support in school for as long as is feasible. This will include providing breakfast and lunch as well as supervised learning within school.

C. Parents working within the NHS or providing wider essential emergency service support

The school will remain open for supervised learning. Given the catering pressures, we will be asking students to bring their own packed lunch.

D. Parents unable to support home learning due to one of the following:

- (i) No internet access or ICT equipment at home
- (ii) Unable to organise home supervision and reticent about leaving children unsupervised at home.

Please note given the catering pressures, we will be asking students to bring their own packed lunch.

On an ongoing basis we are assessing how many of our staff will be able to support this partial closure strategy and must stress that given the current climate, the health and safety of our students and staff will remain paramount. This may impact on our ability to support options B, C and D, but we will keep you updated moving forward.

So that we can accurately gauge which of the above categories you choose for your child, we ask that you return this information to us as soon as possible by using the [form here on the school website](#). If you are unable to access this link, please contact the school office directly on **01772 812644**.

Obviously if we have more students in school that we can cater for, on health and safety grounds, we will need to rethink this strategy. We therefore urge you to consider carefully whether you can support home learning in any way, so that we can avoid total school closure where possible.

We understand how unsettling the current situation is for all our families and will endeavour to continue to support you and the wider community in the best way we can.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L A Gwinnett
Executive Headteacher

Mr M Cunniffe
Head of School

Outstanding education at the heart of the community