



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Pinxton Village Academies,

This letter aims to outline the arrangements we are putting in place for the next week however we will constantly review the situation and keep you all informed.

As you will no doubt be aware, the government released the list of key workers and further clarity on vulnerable children, in the early hours of this morning. A full copy of the guidance is available on this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

**The key message from the government is that, if children can stay safely at home, they should, to reduce the risk of the virus spreading.** That is why the government has asked parents and carers, wherever possible, to keep their children at home. Schools have been asked to stay open to provide **childcare for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

**This service is not open to all, and if you are able to keep your children at home, then you must do so. Government advice says that staying at home is the safest place for children and will prevent rapid spread of the infection. Sending your child into school should be as a last resort because you are required for critical work.**

If you believe you are on the key worker list and feel you have no other choice but to take up this service, we are now asking for you to register your interest in accessing a place for your child at <https://bit.ly/PVAkeyworkerform> if you haven't already done so. This must be completed by midday on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

After registering you will receive a link to stipulate the days you wish to access childcare for next week only. This will be sent on Saturday after 12:00 to allow time for everyone to register. We ask that you only utilise the days and times that you absolutely need.

We can only continue to offer school places if:

- The number of children taking up the offer are sufficiently low
- The number of school staff is sufficiently high

This will therefore need to be reviewed daily and is subject to future Government changes in guidance. We will confirm arrangements for future weeks as soon as we have further clarity from the government and the needs of our community.

Further information about arrangements during school closure is below:

**Children eligible for school meals:**

Those children usually eligible for benefit related free school meals will still receive a meal each day. This will be available to both FSM children attending the childcare provision available and those at home. If your FSM child is attending our childcare provision, they will receive a cooked school meal. If your FSM child is at home, you will be able to collect a packed lunch from the Kirkstead site between 12:00 and 12:30pm each day.

Please be aware that this does not include universal free school meals for all children in Key Stage 1 and is only available to those who meet the benefits related free school meals criteria. If you are unsure as to whether you meet these criteria, please contact the school on Monday.

**Children who are not eligible for benefit related free school meals and who are attending school, will need to be sent to school with a packed lunch.**

**Tasks and Activities for children – working from home**

Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Jan Pierce

Deputy Head Teacher: Mr Adam Butterworth Assistant Head Teachers: Miss Jess Knighton & Miss Mel Bentley

It is essential that all children are supported in their learning during this time of uncertainty and we know that you will be keen to play your part in this. Schools have been working hard over recent weeks in anticipation of school closure and we have provided learning opportunities outlined in yesterday's letter (available on both websites in Parents – Letters). It is an expectation that **all** children engage in the learning provided and we will be monitoring this activity. Where children appear not to be accessing these learning opportunities, we will follow up with parents.

It has been brought to our attention that some families may find logging on at 10am difficult. After taking advice, this expectation is no longer required. There is flexibility for when the children do their home learning as it may suit your family arrangements for the children to do this in the evenings. Staff will still only be available between 10am-12.00pm and 1.30pm - 2.30pm to support the learning.

Those children that continue to attend school will also be accessing the same learning.

I can confirm that the Kirkstead site will stay open for the foreseeable future to care for children from all three sites who are eligible to have their care provided by school. We will continually reassess the situation as more information is made available and will ensure we keep all parents and carers updated.

Remember that the latest guidance from Public Health England can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

We appreciate the situation will create additional pressures for families. Whilst our schools are functioning differently, we are still a community, working together to support and care for each other in over-coming the challenges we will all face.

Yours Sincerely

Jan Pierce

(Executive Headteacher)

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