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the bonds of family, faith and friendship.

Folksworth C of E (VC) Primary School

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Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, yesterday the Government announced that all schools will be closed from Monday 23rd of March until further notice. This means that for the majority of our children, Friday will be their last day in school for what could be a considerable period of time. I would like to thank you for your patience whilst we sought clarity on this.

Childcare Provision for Key Workers and Vulnerable Children

The Government has confirmed that for the foreseeable future, all schools have been asked to provide care for children with Education Health Care Plans, Children who have a contact Social Worker, e.g., 'Children in Need' or those on the Child Protection Register and any Children in Care.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

Key workers are:

- NHS staff
- Teachers and school support staff
- Police and community support officers
- Frontline civilian police staff
- Prison officers and staff
- Probation officers and trainee probation officers
- LA officers and LA/ NHS social workers
- Uniformed staff in fire and rescue services
- Armed forces personnel and some civilian MOD personnel (i.e. clinical staff, MOD police, uniformed fire and defence) and some discharged personnel
- Highway agency traffic staff
- LA environmental health officers/practitioners
- Care workers
- Food/supermarket drivers and other workers

Please note that both parents need to be key workers to access this provision.

The school will be able to provide childcare provision for the children with both parents in this list. The children will still have access to some physical activity and the daily mile. There will be a mixture of activities such as art, cooking, etc as provided in our Stay and Play provision along with time for children to access Microsoft Teams and complete their 'home learning' activities with the support of the staff.

If you are a key worker as defined in the category above and have already contacted me I will shortly be emailing a timetable where you can set out the provision you require.

If you fall into the groups listed above and wish to access this provision please do email me if you haven't already done so head@folksworth.cambs.sch.uk.

Packed lunches will need to be provided unless your child is eligible for free school meals or universal free school meals (Reception and KS1) where a packed lunch can be provided by our caterers.

Home Learning

Thank you to everyone who has already accessed the home learning platform through Microsoft Teams. Over the next few days our teachers will be adding additional ideas for web resources in the Classroom Materials section (in Files). All work will be added to Teams to support with home learning once the school closure is enforced. Could I please encourage you to log in and check that this can be accessed from home before the weekend to allow us to resolve any issues you may experience.

SATs

The Education Secretary has confirmed that they will not go ahead with primary school assessments. I appreciate that this news will be very concerning for our students and that you and they will have a number of questions that you want answering. At this time all we know is that the Government is working with the sector and Ofqual to make further decisions.

Communication

We will continue to communicate with all parents through email, the school website and Twitter. Children also have a communication tool available through Microsoft Teams. Please do keep in contact with us during this period of closure if you have any questions or require any clarification.

As a school we do not yet know how long this closure is expected to last but will inform you as soon as we receive guidance around this.

Finally

Please remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use NHS 111 online.

I wish to thank all our school staff, volunteers, and Governors who have helped in recent days to keep the school open, and who will continue to do so over the coming months. I would also like to thank you for your continued support and understanding during this period.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Norbury
Headteacher