



19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Further to our latest update, I write to confirm that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means. We sent a text last night to ask parents to inform us if they fall into the 'key worker' category so that we can plan for numbers. Thank you to all of those parents who have already confirmed this. If you have not received the text please contact the school office immediately to let us know.

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

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by text, the school website and all of our social media channels.

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

Your child's learning is of course important to us, we have set instructions on Show My Homework for accessing MathsWatch and Instagram and created virtual 'classes' on Seneca Learning (please click this link for further information <https://www.sandhillview.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/SMHW-Seneca-Help-sheet.pdf>). Students can ask questions via Show My Homework and teachers will reply on a daily basis between the hours of 8.30 and 3.35. Many of our departments now have Instagram accounts for general tips and advice. We encourage your child (if they are older than 13) to follow these accounts so that they have regular updates from their teachers. These are open accounts and questions can be asked as comments (no direct messages will be opened for safeguarding purposes).

Should you wish to contact the school for any reason, you can do so via telephone or text. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

We already had plans to provide supermarket vouchers for children who are in receipt of free school meals. We are contacting those parents separately with more information about how we will provide this support, and then will be looking at the scheme the government has just announced.

What we won't be able to go ahead with:

- School trips
- Breakfast or after-school clubs
- Events
- Internal exams or tests

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with 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 to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via the MyEd app.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

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

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J Maw
Headteacher