



Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

You are probably trying to make sense of the government announcement yesterday, as indeed we all are. Below is a mixture of guidance that I have been sent along with what I have gleaned through enquiry. We are expecting further details during the day, which I will inform you of as soon as I get. These are indeed extraordinary times in which the government has had to implement extraordinary measures.

At 5.15pm yesterday, the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williams, gave a public statement that all state-funded schools in England would be closed from the end of the school day on Friday 20th March.

Having stated that all schools would be closed, he then indicated that they would be expected to remain open for the children of 'key workers' and for those in various vulnerable categories (such as children with a social worker and children with EHCPs) – providing a safe place and access to meals. The definition of 'key worker' will be clarified by the cabinet office today. It is expected to include NHS, Police, and delivery drivers. It is expected that if both parents are key workers, or it is a single parent who is a key worker, then a place would be provided for that child. Families where at least one of the parents does not hold a 'key worker' job would be expected to stay at home and provide care for their own children.

More details will be released later today and we will inform you as and when we know.

We have been informed that we will be able to provide vouchers for FSM children which the government will reimburse, ahead of launching a National Voucher System (as yet we have no further details on how we obtain these vouchers, we currently have food bank vouchers if you need them).

For the next two days, pupil attendance is expected to continue as normal within the COVID-19 Public Health England guidance.

I will be creating a form for parents to fill in so we can ascertain how many children we will be opening for. These will go home with your child later today. Staff have been busy creating 'Home Learning Packs' which your child will take home with them tomorrow, Friday 20th. Teachers and staff will still use Tapestry to correspond with you during the school closure. Please upload any pictures and/or work that your children do whilst at home and we will endeavour to respond. The website has a host of links that you can use to continue your child's learning journey. We will use the website and our emailing facilities to keep you informed and to also set further work for your children to complete at home.

Thank you once again for your continued support during these unprecedented times.

If you have any concerns please email me at head@montgomery-inf.essex.sch.uk

Sue Bridgeman

Headteacher