



Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Daily Update – SCHOOL CLOSURE

Dear Parents/Carers

The Government has announced that all schools must close from **this Friday, March 20th, until further notice** to help stop the spread of Coronavirus.

As part of its announcement about schools, the Government also said that;

- All forms of primary assessment (including SATs) have been cancelled for this year
- Schools will be open to help support the children of key workers and for vulnerable students
- Provision for food will be made for students who qualify for Free School Meals (***we will need an email address from you to set this up – see below***)

We expect further details on how we can implement these measures in the coming days and will liaise closely with the Department for Education to ensure that we support our key worker parents and vulnerable students in the best way we can.

In light of the current situation, may I firstly begin by thanking all parents, pupils and staff for your sensible and positive approach to the circumstances, thus far, and to the many families who have offered words of encouragement as we soldier on.

As you will appreciate, many of our staff are parents too and have families of their own, so we fully understand the immense pressures that all parents are facing at this time.

Our other key aim is to ensure and maintain as much stability for the students' education as possible and we have been planning for this outcome. Whilst it is not possible to fully replicate the educational experience at home, we have been working hard to put in place contingency plans to ensure students can still access work and teachers are able to support their learning.

Tomorrow, your child will receive a work pack where teachers have set an initial 2-weeks of daily tasks – this will take you up to the Easter holiday. If your child is currently unwell and/or self-isolating, arrangements will be made to deliver work packs to your front door. We are arranging for teachers to contact all pupils at least weekly via phone call.

Further communication on learning after the Easter holiday will follow in due course.

Updating Contact Details – Email Addresses

At these periods of uncertainty, it is essential that we have up to date email addresses for all parents. Please email Jessica Pawsey (j.pawsey@arkswiftprimary.org) with the email address you would like us to use to send updates to your family as well as set-up vouchers for buying food.

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While schools are closed, we should all continue to follow health guidance.

Find out how to protect yourself here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For further information on the government response, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

We will continue to update you on any developments via emails/text and with regular updates on the school website:

[Life at School > Newsletters](#)

and

[Life at School > Coronavirus – Updates for Parents](#)

It is an unsettling and disruptive time for everyone and we know that you are worried about the impact this might have on our community, city and nation, as whole. It is important that we keep each other safe, support each other during these difficult times and talk about these events to help with any anxiety. We will work together as a school and local community to face the challenging times ahead. Thank you for your support and understanding during these exceptional circumstances. If we can do anything more to help your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Warm regards,



Daniel Upfield
Principal