



18 March 2020

Dear Parents

Coronavirus – COVID-19 Update 18.03.2020

We have all been following the coronavirus situation closely. Today, the Government has announced that in addition to the current 'social distancing' strategies in place, it is now time to include the closure of schools and childcare providers.

We are therefore following advice and closing Banstead Prep School, effective from Friday 20 March at 4.00pm, until further notice.

The Prime Minister also announced that in order to ensure that key workers such as NHS staff can remain at work, and to safeguard vulnerable children including those with Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP), schools should make provision for those children to remain in school. We will contact those parents to whom this applies with more information as soon as we can. If you work in an essential role and you have not already let us know, please contact the school office with details.

It is important that everyone continues to follow the advice already in place. Everyone should avoid unnecessary social contact and self-isolate at home for 14 days if anyone in your family has symptoms. Additionally, people over 70, with underlying health conditions or pregnant women, should stay at home for 12 weeks.

Our priority is to ensure that the children's learning is disrupted as little as possible. As previously communicated, we have therefore planned for the children to receive work to do at home and have support available to enable them to continue their education while school is closed.

We are continuing to monitor the situation, and to follow the advice of the UK government and Public Health England. For further information, please see nhs.uk/coronavirus or gov.uk/coronavirus.

The Department for Education has launched a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline 0800 046 8687 (Opening hours: 8am to 6pm- Monday to Friday) or email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Kind regards

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Continuing Education during School Closure

For children in EYFS

All learning will be delivered via our online learning journal Tapestry. We are using this platform as you will be able to upload pictures and comments to show what your children have been doing at home and we can maintain the record of their learning during this time.

We will set challenges and activities that you can support your child to complete at home. EYFS is a practical, play based and child led curriculum, and the activities would therefore be in line with this way of learning. We will provide plenty of ideas to help you cover the seven key areas of the curriculum, not expecting you to cover everything, but to choose the activities that your child and you are most interested in and able to easily carry out at home.

We will also provide suggestions for websites and educational television programmes that you and your child can use or watch together.

For children in Years 1 – 6

Learning resources for children in Years 1 – 3 will be provided via email to parents as learning activities that the children should complete during this period.

Children in Years 4-6 have their own email addresses that they can access via Office 365, so we will send work to both children and parents for these year groups, to encourage independent learning.

Years 1 – 2

Work provided will be topic based, with reading, writing and maths activities related to the topic work, as well as other ideas for topic activities.

Years 3 – 6

For English and Maths, work will be discrete, structured pieces of work that the children can complete that will include core learning objectives for every child, plus activities that allow for extension. This work will be communicated via a daily email, with the next day's work set each afternoon.

For other subjects, activities will be project based and allow for independent learning and for the children to direct the scope of the work and how they will carry out and record it. A weekly email will be sent with suggested projects for the week ahead.

Every child has brought home an exercise book in which they can complete written home learning activities. We have also provided group reading texts and/or other textbooks that would support their learning where appropriate. **For children who have not been in school this week, arrangements have been made for these to be delivered home.**

Our staff will be working through the closure, and teachers will be available via email to answer questions, to provide feedback and to adapt and extend work if required. **Teachers will be contactable during term time, and during usual school opening hours.** If they are unable to work due to illness, an alternative contact will be made available.

Our ethos is always to have an open dialogue between school and home, and we encourage you to maintain this by e.g. sending us photos or completed pieces of work and showing us what the children are doing.