

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Families,

I am writing to you following the latest announcements by the Government regarding school closure.

As you will now be aware, the Government has taken the decision that all schools will close from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March for all pupils other than the children of “Key Workers” and vulnerable pupils. The aim of this strategy is to allow Key Workers to undertake their critical responsibilities while providing a safe environment for a small number of children. **Clearly, the more children who attend any school, the greater the likelihood that the virus will spread to families.** As such, we are asking that families only request attendance at school once all other avenues for childcare have been considered.

While attending school, pupils will be following the same online work that has been set for those pupils who are at home. They will be in mixed year groups / classes and supervised by teaching staff on a rota basis. A limited choice of lunches will be available (sandwiches / paninis) and there will be breaks for physical activity at the usual times. Depending on staff absence we may need to request that packed lunches are brought on certain days. Payment for lunches will be through the usual school system. Arrangements for children on Free School Meals are outlined below.

At present we understand that the school bus services run by Lancashire CC will operate as normal (280, 522, 616, 637 and 633) but the commercial services run by Pilkington’s (547, 888, 892, 531, 530 and 870) may be subject to change and may not be running.

### **Vulnerable Pupils**

This category includes children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), Looked After Children, Children in Need and those children subject to Level 3 or Level 4 on the Lancashire Continuum of Need.

Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) – Mrs Day will be contacting families of children with EHCPs to make individual plans regarding attendance. These pupils will be based in a separate area from the rest of the school population for most of the school day.

Looked After Children (CLA), Children in Need (CIN), Common Assessment Framework (CAF) – We expect all families to know that their children are in any of these categories and one of the Assistant Headteachers (Mrs Rutter or Mrs Bleazard) will be contacting families to confirm arrangements.

Pupils who are not in these categories must not attend school, as the greater the number of pupils present, the greater the risk to all who do attend. Safety of all members of our community must now be the priority.

### **Key Workers**

In order to allow the emergency services and other vital areas of the economy to operate effectively the Government has directed schools to allow children of “Key Workers” to continue to attend school.

We would anticipate that this would be particularly relevant for younger year groups with older children being able to stay at home alone; this would reduce the risk of spreading the virus to families in these critical roles.

We will be asking families to request attendance under the Key Worker scheme using a form on the school website, identifying the eligibility category with employer details along with the days / dates requested for attendance. Please only complete this form if you are eligible as a Key Worker and there is nobody else available (under 70) at home to supervise your child(ren).

In order to provide the safest possible environment we will have to adhere strictly to the guidelines that define Key Workers and will inform families once their eligibility is confirmed. Smaller numbers of children in school means greater safety for all.

### **Free School Meals**

Families with children who are eligible for Free School Meals have two options.

- Attendance at school with provision of a limited range of lunch options and work being completed in a mixed year group IT room.
- Work at home and receive a weekly allowance to allow the purchase of food from a local supermarket (Tesco vouchers have already been purchased for this group).

An online form is available to express your choice, otherwise contact will be made with families regarding the options. Again, we would encourage the “stay at home” option for the safety of your child and those children who have no choice but to attend.

### **All Other Pupils**

We appreciate that school closure will provide huge challenges for many families and it will be important that children keep up with a regular routine in terms of their education. We have posted on the school website the details of how children will access learning materials via our Office 365 / Teams platform and all pupils have been given guidance on accessing this over the last week. Teachers will be setting daily work in accordance with the current timetable and we expect that children will keep up with this work in the coming weeks. The Office365 platform allows pupils to see clearly what work has been set and to keep track of work that they have “Turned In”. We hope that this will provide a structure for their daily routine and will allow parents to check that they are up to date. Please check the school website [www.sarchs.com](http://www.sarchs.com) for details and a video tutorial of how this system works.

Along with this document you should receive a list of support services that may be useful over the coming weeks. If you feel you need any support from school please let us know and we will do our best to help. Contact via the school switchboard may be limited so are recommending contact by email at [info@sarchs.com](mailto:info@sarchs.com).

Yours sincerely,

*M Wright*

Michael Wright  
Headteacher

## ONLINE/TELEPHONE SUPPORT SERVICES

- [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk) Information for children and young people about mental health and wellbeing. **Free 24/7 crisis messenger – text YM to 85258**
- [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) Free confidential service to help young people under 19 with any issue they are going through. **Helpline – 0800 11 11**
- [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) Free, safe & anonymous online support for young people
- [www.itsgoodtotalk.org.uk](http://www.itsgoodtotalk.org.uk) Listings of local counsellors
- [www.bacp.co.uk](http://www.bacp.co.uk) British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy
- [www.themix.org.uk](http://www.themix.org.uk) The Mix's Crisis Messenger text service is available 24/7 and open to anyone aged 25 or under living in the UK. If you're in crisis and need to talk, text THEMIX to 85258 **Helpline: 0800 808 4994**
- <https://coramvoice.org.uk/> Advocacy, information and support for looked after children and young people. **Helpline: 08088005792**
- [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org) Crisis support for anyone in emotional distress or thinking about suicide. **Helpline: 08457 90 90 90**
- [www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org) Confidential advice and support for young people who feel suicidal **Helpline 08000684141/ Text 07786209697**
- [www.thecalmzone.net](http://www.thecalmzone.net) Support for young men who are down or in a crisis. **Helpline 0800585858**
- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/> Information, advice and guidance about learning, training and work
- <http://www.centreplace.org.uk/talkzone.htm> Counselling, live chat on-line or telephone
- [www.the-lookout.org.uk](http://www.the-lookout.org.uk) Support around domestic abuse for young people and families, run by Children & Family Wellbeing service.
- [www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-young-people](http://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-young-people) Information and support for mental health and wellbeing issues.
- [www.virusanxiety.com](http://www.virusanxiety.com) Resources, exercises and meditations for anxiety and mental health issues in the current climate.