

Dear parents/carers

## **Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils**

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know 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 distinct characteristics.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think you fall into the key worker category. If you email the school on **office5@netherfieldprimaryschool.com**, tell us your child's name and your job role then we can begin to work on staffing requirements for Monday onwards. We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to.

**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 placing all of the relevant information on our website and app, we will also update work information, return and collection information on both of these social media platforms;

**Piota Schools App.** Please search the App Store/Google play to download for free

**[www.netherfieldprimaryschool.com](http://www.netherfieldprimaryschool.com)**

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

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

Work packs will be given to all children on Friday to bring home; these packs have been planned to take children's learning until the beginning of the Easter holidays. Further packs will be available as we move through the school term. If your child is not in school, we will deliver packs on Friday or Saturday.

Parents will note that we have not directed learning onto internet based platforms, this has been a conscious decision to allow children to physically complete work and for us to be able to assess the quality and quantity in our usual personal manner. We decided as a staff that we wanted to keep that close connection to your child's learning.

We have however set up Class Dojo as a way to maintain some contact between your child, you as a parent and the class teacher / school. This app, which is free, is available from the APP store or through a web browser. This allows suitable contact between home and school and can be used to send work back to the teacher or to ask questions about work and school. To support our staff through this time, they will only respond during the hours of 9am – 3pm. This we feel will be important as we know children enjoy coming to Netherfield and we do want to continue to foster that enjoyment throughout these uncertain times. A sign-up letter for Class Dojo will be available to parents via the App/website later today

Your child will be provided with a home learning pack containing work for them to complete for two weeks. We expect the children to do one piece of work for maths, writing and reading every work day.

Parents' will be able to contact school through the normal measures, phone, email and now Class Dojo.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about a scheme that the government has announced, however this is currently at the same stage as 'key workers', more detail is yet to be given by the Government.

### **National Tests**

Whilst these may have been cancelled across all schools, I wanted to reassure parents that this year we have been consistently assessing children and we believe we have a rounded picture that will allow a successful transition to the next stage of your child's education. In addition and more importantly, we are reinforcing with the children that the learning they have completed is about their longer term learning, they have gained new knowledge and used that as it will help with their next stage, not because someone will allocate a figure to it, there are more real life reasons why it is important that they can write a letter, form sentences, take part in PE, create pieces of art and I would be grateful if you can praise your children whilst they are completing their work and let them know that we will be proud of all they do whilst at home.

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 our usual number or the general [office5@netherfieldprimaryschool.com](mailto:office5@netherfieldprimaryschool.com) email. Additionally, if there is anything from a family perspective that you do not have the answers to throughout this period of uncertainty then give us a call and we will support wherever possible.

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.



Mr J Crone  
Headteacher