

Merton Infant and Junior School



Aiming High, Achieving Together



20th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are sure that you will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement on Wednesday 18th March about general school closures but continuing provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children. We are writing to give you an update on our plans for this, following advice from the Local Authority.

Both schools will close at the end of Friday 20th March and there is **no** expectation that pupils will then attend school until the advice from Government changes.

Emergency Service

While our schools will **be closed for general admissions**, all schools across the country are being asked to run an emergency service for the children of key workers in essential services so that they are able to continue to work. We have now received the definitive list of key workers from the Government which are:

- Health and Social Care
- Education and Childcare
- Key Public Services
- Local and National Government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Please access this link if you are unsure whether you fit into one of these categories:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

There is no expectation that children of these key workers have to attend school. If you fall into this group and wish to make other arrangements, then you are welcome to do so.

The Government is also asking that we continue to provide education and support for children who have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP), children who have a social worker assigned to the family, those from families receiving Early Help and children receiving support from the Primary Behaviour Service.

Again, there is no requirement that children in these groups have to come to school, but they will be welcome should parents or carers choose this option. **The Government are asking schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

Home to School Transport

The County Council will continue to make home to school transport available to those children that are eligible to receive it. In some instances, that might require some changes to be made which may take a little time. We expect further information from the Local Authority if this is the case and will provide further information as soon as we have it.

Merton Infant School: Tel: 01256 324507 Email: adminoffice@merton-inf.hants.sch.uk
Merton Junior School: Tel: 01256 326573 Email: admin.office@merton-jun.hants.sch.uk

Both Schools' Address: Romsey Close, Popley Way, Basingstoke, Hants, RG24 9HB

Online materials and learning

For those children who will be at home from Monday morning, there will be online resources available to support children to continue to learn.

Infant School

- We have already sent packs of work home but if you have not collected them due to being self-isolated then we will post them tonight.
- We have listed websites on our school website on the Children's pages.
- We have sent you a log-in for 'Teach your monster to read' website.
- We have sent you a link to twinkl: www.twinkl.co.uk/offer and enter the code UKTWINKLHELPS.
- We will create Resource packs (e.g. pencils, glue, books) for collection or staff will drop them to your houses next week.

Junior School

- We have sent packs of work home to some children and exercise books to other children – if your child has an exercise book then please access the work packs on our website and children can write their answers in their exercise book.
- Further work will be updated on the website each week.
- Please access a list of websites which can be found on the Year Group pages.
- Please take advantage of the free subscription offer on Twinkl's website (<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/offer>) and enter the code CVDTWINKLHELPS.
- We will keep you informed of any updates on our school Facebook page.

In addition, the BBC has said that it will be increasing its range of resources to support children's education.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support through these unprecedented times. Please be assured that we will continue to update you as the situation changes and that we will continue to work for the best interests of the children at our schools.

Breakfast and After-School clubs will be cancelled. Please do contact us for anything. Keep yourself and your family safe. We will be thinking of you.

Yours sincerely,


Larissa James
Infant Headteacher


Kayleigh Reading
Junior Headteacher