



Palermo Avenue
Coventry CV3 5EH
Tel: 024 7641 1711

Headteacher: Miss S Cooke
admin@howes.coventry.sch.uk
www.howesprimary.co.uk
@HowesCoventry

19th March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from our last update, we are now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday (20th March) at 3:20pm until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all that we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs. **If we have sufficient staff able to stay working for this group, the provision will be available for children of single parents/carers who are key workers or for children where both parents/carers are key workers and there is no alternative childcare available. In situations where one parent is a key worker and one is not, it is expected that the non-key worker will care for their child/children at home.**

In these unprecedented circumstances, only a small number of staff will be available to supervise the children, as staff will also need to minimise risks to themselves and their own families.

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 your child may fall into one of these categories. Please complete the slip attached and return it to school by 9am Friday morning (20th March) at the latest or email admin@howes.coventry.sch.uk. You will need to provide the following information:

- Name of Child/Children
- Year Group
- Profession and Employer of Parent 1
- Profession and Employer of Parent 2 (if applicable)
- Contact numbers if different from those held on school records

The Government has not yet provided a definition of key worker and therefore by providing us with the detail requested above we will be able to check against the criteria once we receive it. We will be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to and to share with you plans beyond this Friday.

In order to support us in preparing a plan, please can any parents who intend to send their child/children into school following the closure on Friday make contact with us **by Friday 20th March at 9am at the latest.**

Please **only** complete the reply slip or email the office if you fall into the specified categories and are hoping to send your child in to school from Monday.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to teach normal lessons. These children will be supervised by a member of staff (teaching or support) and will access the same materials for self-study as those working at home.

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'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by text message, via our school Twitter account: @HowesCoventry and on the school website: www.howesprimary.co.uk.

What we will 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. A pack of work will be sent home with your child today and we have set up a page for home learning on our website: <https://howesprimary.co.uk/children/working-at-home/>. We will try to update this as regularly as we can to ensure that you have access to many free online resources. If you find any useful ones please let us know via the school Twitter account and we can share these with all families.

Thank you for working with us in these challenging times.

Sioux Cooke
Headteacher

Sue Roberts
Chair of Governors

PLEASE RETURN BY 9AM ON FRIDAY 20TH MARCH OR SEND THE INFORMATION THROUGH TO admin@howes.coventry.sch.uk

I/We believe that as parent(s) we fall in to the key worker category or have a child who has an EHCP or a social worker and I/We would appreciate that after the main school closure that my child/children would be able to continue to attend Howes Primary School if the school is able to safely remain open.

Name of child..... Year group.....

Name of child..... Year group.....

Name of child..... Year group.....

Parent 1 profession.....

Parent 2 profession (if applicable)

Parents signature..... Date.....

