

St. John's Upper Holloway C.E. Primary School

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Dear parents and carers

As you may have heard, it was announced today that all schools are to shut from the end of the day on Friday 20th March (this Friday). However, the Prime Minister also stated that they would need to remain open for the children of key workers or those who are particularly vulnerable. We will provide further clarity on this tomorrow. Currently there is no set date for schools to re-open as this will depend on the speed with which the number of Coronavirus cases starts to reduce and the threat to public health is deemed less critical.

We have planned a programme of 'home learning' for all pupils over the coming weeks. For those pupils in school on Friday, we will provide them with a 'home learning pack'. This consists of a letter explaining what we would like your child to do each day in the week ahead, together with appropriate worksheets and links to suitable websites. They will also have an exercise book in which they can record their work. Several of the websites that we are asking your child to use (such as Doodle maths, TT Rockstars and My Maths) require a password and there will be a sheet in the pack with all the passwords your child will need. We understand that worksheets are less appropriate for younger pupils and we are therefore suggesting more practical tasks and games that can be done with an adult.

If pupils are not in school on Friday, we will send an email via Parentmail and all the resources they need (letter, activity guidance and worksheets) will be attached. Obviously you will need to provide an exercise book to record all their work in or if you have a printer at home, you can print them out. If you would rather collect a 'home learning pack' from school, this is fine provided no-one in your family is in self-isolation. We ask that you keep a record of all the work your child completes so that we can review it when they return. This will also help with our teacher assessment judgements when we reach the end of the year.

From the second week onwards, all work will be set electronically and sent to parents via Parentmail. Teachers will be able to monitor how well pupils are achieving on tasks such as Doodle maths, TT Rockstars and Mymaths and will be emailing parents/children if it appears a child is struggling. Equally, if you or your child are finding any tasks difficult, please email your child's teacher – they will provide an email that they can be contacted on in the 'home learning pack'. If you are struggling to contact your child's teacher via email, please contact



the school office (info@st-johnsholloway.islington.sch.uk) and they will forward your email to your child's teacher.

We fully understand that this is a very difficult time for parents and families, both in terms of child care and finances. We are in talks with our caterers about how they can continue to provide lunch for those families who require it and will clarify this as soon as we have the information. We are still hoping to meet with any parents who feel that they would be able to be part of a parent action group, helping those families who are most in need at this difficult time. This meeting is due to take place at 3:30pm this Friday in the school hall. If you have questions about the school closure, can I ask that you call the school or see me before the school closes on Friday, rather than raising them at this meeting.

Although the school will be closed to most pupils in the coming weeks, all staff will still be working, either in school or from home – setting and reviewing pupils work and checking emails. If you do have any serious concerns or issues, please do email me and I will do my best to support you in any way we can.

Yours sincerely

Brian Welsh
Head teacher

