

Shirley Infant School

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Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

Shirley Junior School



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19th March 2020

Thank you for your patience as we develop and implement our plans based on the latest Government statements, guidance and instructions and the guidance provided by our colleagues at the Hamwic Education Trust. As you will all appreciate the situation is changing very quickly and we are all working as fast as we can to respond to this and make sure you are kept informed.

Yesterday the Government announced its decision to close all schools in England from the end of school tomorrow (Friday 20th March) until further notice. This of course includes Shirley Infant and Junior Schools and so, for the majority of children, this will mean remaining at home from next week onwards.

We all appreciate the inconvenience and disruption that this will bring to parents, carers and children, but we also understand that the current situation is truly exceptional and this difficult decision has been taken to tackle the spread of COVID-19 and provide the NHS with the best opportunity to cope during the coming weeks.

Yesterday the Education Secretary announced that schools will be expected to provide child care for the children of key workers, which will include NHS staff, police and delivery drivers, to allow them to continue to tackle the impact of COVID-19. He also announced that schools will remain open to the most vulnerable children, which will include those children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).



We are expecting to receive further information today on the Government's definition of key workers and also vulnerable children (eg, those children who have a social worker or been involved with social services). We are not in a position to confirm any child care places at the current time. We know that you will be anxious to learn what is going to happen next week and we very much appreciate your patience as you wait for more information. Thank you for your understanding and please continue to bear with us!

We will update you once we have received and been able to interpret any new information on who is eligible for these child care arrangements. We will also provide an update on any arrangements for children who currently receive free school meals once this becomes clearer.

Please be assured that we have been anticipating the potential closure of our schools and all of our staff have been working hard to plan home learning opportunities to ensure that the children can continue to learn and develop over the coming days and weeks while schools are closed. We know you will be keen to know more about these arrangements and so further communications will be made over the coming days. Again, please bear with us as we tackle a range of challenges and priorities over the next couple of days.

Finally, we understand that this is a worrying time for us all. Please continue to look out for each other and of course the school can still be contacted via email if necessary. Above all we hope that you and your families stay safe and healthy during these uncertain times. Please do continue to check the school website regularly for updates.



Yours sincerely

Pete Gould and Carolyn Fayle
Chair and Deputy Chair of Governors

Annette Hixon and Cate Gregory
Shirley Schools Head teachers

