



Winterbourne Junior Girls' School

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20/3/20

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID 19 (Coronavirus) - school closures from Monday 23rd March and providing care for key workers and those who are vulnerable

As you will all be aware, yesterday, the government has announced that schools, early years settings and nurseries, 6th form colleges and independent schools will be closed to the majority of children from the end of the school day on Friday 20th March.

I realise this is distressing news for you and our entire school community and will leave many anxious, but I want to reassure everyone that we will support you and your child(ren) as much as we can.

I want to thank you all in advance for your undoubted support during these challenging times and I feel very confident that together we can all work tirelessly to put everything in place to support our most vulnerable pupils.

Schools are being asked to continue to provide care for a **limited** number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and **cannot be safely cared for at home**.

There is an expectation that care and education will be provided for three key categories of children, over the next two weeks and during the Easter holidays for the children of key workers, from Monday 23rd March 2020.

These key categories of children include:

1. Children who have a social worker i.e. Looked After Children, children on Child Protection plans and Child In Need Plans.
2. Children who have Education, Health and Care Plans, EHCPs. This includes all pupils in ELPs, Special Schools as well as those in mainstream schools and settings.
3. Children of 'key workers' <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you feel that your child falls into category one or two above and the school might be unaware of this, then please contact the school to make sure that they are included.

It is important to minimise the number of students in school in order to slow transmission of the virus. If you are a key worker and you are happy for your child to be at home, either because there will be someone to look after them, or they are old enough to stay at home alone, please consider this and let the school know so that we can offer places where childcare is unavailable.

If you feel that you, as a parent are a key worker by the definition released by the government and you require your child to come to school - you will need to let us know. Please fill in the survey ([add link here](#)).

It is important to emphasise that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

We are working on providing a reduced meals service at school for those children staying in school. In addition to this, we are planning to provide food for those eligible for free school meals who are not in school. Parents/children will be able to collect food from our kitchens between 11.45 and 1.15pm daily – please sign up if you require this service so that we can gauge numbers.

We will continue to provide home learning and teaching for all pupils who are not in school. Please, however, use today to ensure that your child is able to log-in to Google Classroom at home.

This is a time when we will all need to work together to ensure that our families and children are well supported and cared for. I'm sure that if we all pull together we can get through this outbreak safely and with as minimum disruption as possible in the circumstances.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong

HEADTEACHER