

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent /Carers,

School to be closed from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Government announcements

You are no doubt aware that the Prime Minister announced yesterday that at the end of the school day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, all schools in England along with Scotland and Wales will close indefinitely.

Alongside this announcement came the news that schools would remain open for children of key workers to ensure that they can work if needed. Although it has not yet been announced, it is expected that pupils of key workers will only be allowed if both parents are classified as key workers.

We are also still waiting for this list to be confirmed, which obviously makes it very difficult to prepare as we do not know numbers, despite trying to gain some information from you by text this morning. Thank you to those of you who have replied. At the moment, we think that key workers will be those working in the NHS, Emergency Services (fire, police, ambulance), food delivery drivers and school staff. I will therefore send further communication to clarify who this applies to tomorrow. Please contact the school if you think this applies to you. We will do everything in our power to support key workers so that they can continue do their vital work.

The government statement also stated that we will continue to provide care for children who have a social worker or an EHCP. We will continue to do this and provide childcare for these children during usual term-time dates. The school will contact parents and carers of children eligible in this category tomorrow.

Free School Meals

The Government information also states that schools will provide meals or vouchers to children eligible for free school meals. From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, we will provide daily 'Grab Bags' that will be available for collection for free school meal eligible children. We see this as a short-term measure that will change once the national voucher scheme is established. We will give further information on this tomorrow.

Finally

I will send out a further letter tomorrow about how we will communicate with you during the closure of our school, the home-learning plans we are putting in place to support your children at home and an update on the government guidance of who will be able to access childcare from us. I appreciate that the present situation is worrying, please be reassured that we are doing our very best to fulfil the duties we are being asked to by the government and support our families here at Windmill, whilst also managing significant staff absences.

Yours faithfully,

Teresa Shrestha  
Headteacher

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