



Headteacher
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Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Closer/Key Workers Request Information/Remote Learning Guidance

School Closer

At 5.15pm yesterday (Wednesday 18th March 2020), the Secretary of State for Education gave a public statement that all state-funded schools in England would be closed from the end of the school day on Friday.

He also indicated that all statutory testing (SATS) would not take place for this year, including teacher assessments for end of Key Stage 1.

Having indicated that all schools would be *closed*, he then indicated that they would be expected to remain *open* for the children of key workers and for those in various vulnerable categories – providing a safe place and access to meals. We are expecting a definition of ‘key worker’ today from the Cabinet Office. It will take time to determine the nature of this provision.

Although we have been anticipating such an announcement, and prepared for various scenarios, the limited details so far released raise considerably more questions than answers. You will all have your own legitimate concerns and queries.

The Secretary of State gave no undertaking that schools would be expected to sustain a pattern of normal learning during the closure; rather that any available staff would be expected to support other frontline efforts. Our school response is yet to be determined.

I will be working my senior leadership colleagues, and all staff, and the local authority to clarify as best we can what this announcement means for the school, for our pupils and for you. I anticipate providing more details later today or by Friday morning at the latest.

Do you think you are a Key Worker?

For the meantime – we would like to ask all parents who believe they are a Key worker, to send an email with the below table filled in to the school – stating what post you hold. For those who believe they are key workers, it is important that you prove why any other parent of your children, cannot look after them whilst you work, if you are requesting the school to do so.

Please copy and paste the following table below into your email and send it to:

admin@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk with the subject title of: KEY WORKER (Child's name).

Your child's name or children's names?	
What parent role do you hold for the above children?	
What 'key worker' post do you hold? Be very specific please.	
Do the above children have any other adult who can care for them at home whilst you work? (YES or NO only)	
If the above is answered YES, we would expect from Monday 23 rd for the children to stay at home. If you've answered NO, please explain why any other parent with parental responsibility, cannot look after your children from 23.03.20 until further notice.	

Remote Learning

As a staffing team, we have also been planning for remote learning to be available to our families. Can I assure you that from Monday next week, lesson ideas and resources will be available for you and your children to access via our website! Yesterday, your children had passwords for each accessible online learning platform, pasted in the front of their reading records – and for those pupils who have been absent, you will receive your child's passwords via your Marvellous Me app account at some point today. From today, you will be able to access new resource software, such as Espresso. This is a fabulous learning and teaching resource that we already use in school – and is part funded by the PTA. This is now available to you for home use. More guidance will come tomorrow on our remote learning and what you can do in preparation for Monday. Once again, we do not expect you to be natural teachers, so lesson plans and guidance will all be available from Monday and released in 5 day blocks of learning. On a final note, for those who are at school today, we are sending home a learning pack that consists of plain paper, lined paper, some spelling work and a pencil. This is to help resource you with any paper based learning you choose to do. For those pupils who are not at school today and do not have access to paper and pencils at home, please do not worry – most of our remote learning lessons will be accessible via the internet/online.

Thank you for your support and for your patience in the meantime.

For today and Friday 20th March 2020, pupil attendance is expected to continue as normal within the COVID-19 Public Health England guidance.

Many thanks for your support in these trying times.

Mr D. Bateman
Headteacher