

Sunnylands Primary School

**18th March 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is with much sadness I am writing to confirm that school will close at 1pm on Friday 20th March and will remain closed until further notice. I apologise for the short notice of this closure however school principals and staff learnt of this closure on the news tonight too and we are still waiting on further clarification in relation to a number of issues.

You will be aware that last week pupils had a home learning pack sent home containing work to be completed until Easter. Many of our pupils have started to use this pack, having been advised or chosen to self-isolate, and this material continues to be relevant until Easter.

In Sunnylands we have been working hard throughout this week to ensure that we have provision made should a longer term school closure be called. We will have completed these packs and have them ready for collection by Friday afternoon. However, I would ask that anyone who is self-isolating for **any reason** related to coronavirus you **cannot** personally collect these packs, please ask a friend, neighbour or another person to do this for you.

The work contained within these packs goes further than the suggested four weeks, which many other schools are now sending, and instead sets out a ten-week programme of learning for your child, covering the period from Easter through to the end of June (P6 transfer pupils have summer work too).

The work has been tailored to meet the needs of your child’s ability and current educational level within school and therefore they should, with help and encouragement, be able to progress through this pack. Each week has been put together with a timetable so that you can see what should be completed each day/week and the focus is on Literacy and Numeracy.

We would ask that you try to sit with your child/children for a period each day and use the material we have provided. I would suggest that, from the beginning, you give them structure to their day and their learning similar to school, set aside an area, preferably with a table and chair, to complete school work at. Make sure children are aware that you will work together through the work set for that day, not just one sheet here and there, and then stick to this – don’t give in! I would advise completing work in the earlier part of the day when your child is more likely to concentrate and you can use the afternoon for more active/hands on activities and crafts that you might chose to do or accessing some of the many educational websites available across the internet (I will post links on the school website to help with this).

If you have difficulty explaining any aspect of Literacy or Numeracy, Google is always a good source of knowledge and YouTube also has many tutorials.

If you feel that you do not have stationery to complete this work please contact me as soon as possible and I will endeavour to help with this.

I wish to pay tribute to the hard work of my staff, both teaching and non-teaching, throughout the past two weeks, and particularly since Monday, as we put together the resources needed to have these work packs ready. We are able to provide for your children’s learning throughout this closure because of their dedication and continual hard work.

I also wish to thank you as parents for your understanding and messages of support as we have moved through these uncertain times. I wish to assure you of our continued support for your child’s learning, even when school is closed, and of our continued wish to keep you informed of any future information released by Department of Education in relation to school.

Primary Seven I know will be particularly disappointed by this abrupt end to the school term and perhaps to the school year. We will give them the opportunity to have a leavers assembly and to say goodbye to Primary School at some time in the future.

I understand that many parents will be uncertain and perhaps a little wary of working through these folders, just take it a day and a week at a time and email any questions that may arise. I will try to help.

Finally, as we move toward closure and into a very uncertain time for everyone I wish you and your family good health.

Take time to recognise the importance of family and of community, look out for each other and for others who are more vulnerable and isolated.

If you are struggling with any aspect of life in the weeks that lie ahead, please contact us and we will endeavour to make a difference.

Keep safe and keep well,

Joanne Lyons