



Department for Children, Adults and Health

Headteacher
All Primary & Secondary Schools

Date: 19th March 2020
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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to provide you with information on how South Gloucestershire Local Authority and school leaders will respond to the government's announcement yesterday (18/03/20) on school closures.

Yesterday afternoon the government announced that schools will close on Friday 20th March 2020, until further notice, for all children, with the exception of the children of key workers and vulnerable children (defined as those with a social worker or Education Health Care Plan). The list of key workers has been published today and your child's school will be sharing this information with you as soon as it becomes available. Each school will be contacting its parents/carers and asking whether you fit into these categories and wish your child to continue to attend school.

We need to get a sense of how many families may require this provision, so that we can plan to meet this need.

Rangeworthy C of E and North Road Community School have decided to join in partnership under the banner of 'Childcare Cover' to provide childcare supervision for the key workers' children as detailed in the government list below.

Mr Powell will be contacting each parent who qualifies as a key worker by telephone (by this Friday) to explain in more detail the provision on offer.

A lot of the detail linked to the announcement has yet to be published, such as how the provision for free school meals will work; however, a North Bristol Foodbank Referral Form can be requested from the school office if required. It is still unknown how qualifications will be awarded in the absence of exams. We appreciate that this could be really upsetting for young people who have worked so hard but the Government is committed to working with the relevant bodies to ensure that young people are able to move onto their chosen destination without disruption. We will of course, keep families informed about this once the Government has published their strategy.

During the school closures, schools will be providing resources and learning ideas, including online activities, for you to support your child at home. As you already know, we have invested a lot of time in uploading this home learning to the school website but we do appreciate that there may be teething problems, so please continue to get in touch with us and we will respond when we get the time.

We know this is a different way of working for us all. Schools will ensure they keep in touch with their parents/carers via their website and through text/email communication to let you know when their school will re-open.

The last week has been very challenging for us all but staff in our schools are demonstrating enormous commitment to maintaining high standards of education to our children and young people. The Secretary of state said in his speech to the House of Commons that headteachers, teachers and staff who work in schools are central to the country's response. Through working together, I know we will rise to this challenge and make the difference our country needs.

We thank you for your continued partnership in working to overcome this situation together.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary Smith
Head of Education, Learning and Skills

(Amended and added to by Mr Powell)