



## Howard Primary School

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Re: COVID-19 update – School Closure**

We are sure that you will have already heard the Government's announcement that, as of 3.30pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, schools will be closed to all pupils except the most vulnerable and children of key workers until further notice. **However, the Government guidance clearly states that if it is at all possible for children to be at home then they should be, as this will be the safest place for them to be. The rationale behind closing schools is to ensure that social distancing is maintained as far as possible as this is the best way of stopping the virus spreading.** Whilst this news deeply saddens us all at Howard Primary, we must respect this decision and support each other by following the instructions handed down to us by our Government.

The role of primary schools going forward will be different, but no less important, in the coming weeks and months. From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, we will be asked to provide care and support **only** for our most vulnerable pupils (those with Educational Healthcare Plans or those with open child protection or child in need cases) and for those pupils whose parents or carers are key workers. **The Government has now released a list of key worker categories which can be found by following this link.**

[Guidance from the government on key worker categories.](#)

**We feel that it is important that parents and carers follow the advice from Central Government as closely as possible to ensure the safety of all our pupils and staff. In order to achieve this, we may in certain circumstances ask parents or carers of key workers to produce a work pass or other identification to confirm that their child is entitled to be in school. Parents or carers who are key workers will be contacted separately with arrangements for next week.**

The Secretary of State for Education stated that the role of schools will change during this period and will primarily be fulfilling a child-care requirement. The dedicated staff at Howard Primary have always sought to provide a stimulating and educational environment for our pupils and we are sure that their drive and commitment to educate will be as strong as ever.

There is however a need to clarify that, as a school, we can only commit to remaining open if it continues to be safe to do so. As the outbreak of COVID-19 worsens, more of our staff may be required to self-isolate and this is simply a reality that we must all acknowledge and be prepared for.

All children will be provided with a pack of home learning resources to engage with during this period of school closure. There will also be learning resources provided online for your child to access through our class blogs and existing online learning platforms such as Mathletics.



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Teachers will continue to update blogs with messages and learning tasks throughout the closure, so please check the website regularly.

There will be further updates in due course however, for the time being, we wish for all our pupils, parents, carers and staff to remain safe and in good health. We ask all pupils to remember our 5 C's at home, we ask them to be caring, courteous, considerate, co-operative and committed at all times. It is in these challenging circumstances that these values will be most important to remember.

Yours sincerely,

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