Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

You will be aware of the statements made Wednesday 18th March by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education.

**Schools in England are due to close from the end of today (Friday 20th March) until further notice. In addition, the Prime Minister has said that there will be school provision for the children of key workers, children with EHCPs and vulnerable children (Please see below).**

As outlined by the Education Minister on Wednesday evening, schools will still be open offering a care service for pupils whose parents are key workers. **The DFE has been clear however that if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. The support is an offer to parents, and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.**

The guidance for this states;

*It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a* ***limited*** *number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, ‘looked after’ children, young carers, disabled children and those with* [*education, health and care (EHC) plans*](https://www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs/extra-SEN-help)*.*

The guidance then states; *Please, therefore, follow these key principles*

***If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.***

*If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.*

*Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.*

*Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.*

The list covers jobs in: Health and Social Care, Education and childcare, key public service, local national government, food and other necessary goods, public safety and national security, utilities, communication and financial services. The DFE states “**If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service”.**

[**https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision)

Thank you to all of you for your support and understanding during this time. We are incredibly proud to be a school at the heart of this community and continue to remain absolutely committed to working alongside you to provide the best possible learning experience for all the children of Fairfields Primary School. The children have been fantastic in school this week and their well-being and learning remain at the very heart of everything we do.

Please find below as much information as we can give right now:

**Home Learning (for children not in school)**

There is an expectation that all families support their children with their learning at home to sustain their education. Should you become unwell then understandably this may not be possible.

Each year group will upload learning to our ‘Home Learning’ section within the Year Group page on the school website. This will be the central location of all learning during the closure period. A comprehensive set of links, downloadable learning packs and suggested activities are also listed. If you do not have access to the internet please inform the school and we will provide hard copies of work for your child to do at home. Please mark this work with your child as they complete it as class teachers will not be able to mark this once the school reopens.

In addition to this learning, your child will have access to a wealth of books online by following the Oxford Owl link found on the home learning information on the website. Also, as previously mentioned the TT Rockstars and Purple Mash websites can also be accessed at home.

We have closed in recent years for snow, but we are going into unchartered territories here, and I feel it is important to offer as much support as possible. As children, they will be used to the structure of a school day, and equally the social interaction that comes with learning in a classroom. 5 hours of lessons, will never equate to 5 hours personalised learning, and as such I would recommend that, where at all possible, you adhere to or make a structure for each day- this may of course be challenging when you are expected to work yourself, and equally illness may impair this ability. As a Senior Leadership Team, we have looked at this, and we would recommend a structure based on activities broken down into chunks of time for example:

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| --- | --- |
| 30 minutes | Maths Arithmetic (for example TT Rockstars) |
| 30 minutes | Maths Reasoning (for example activities through the White Rose Hub https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/ , or activities sent home) |
| 30 minutes | Reading |
| 30 minutes | Phonic and SPAG Activities |
| 30 minutes | Themed activities (see home learning packs on website) |
| 45 minutes | Physical Activity (Just Dance, Yoga, Walking, In the garden). These can be interspersed throughout the other activities. |
| Other times | There are many other things that children don’t often get the chance to do, for example jigsaws, gardening, cooking… |

**School Contact (9:00-15:00)**

Please email the class teacher should you need to contact them with regards to their learning or general wellbeing. If you do not receive a reply within 24 hours, then email a member of the school leadership team (SLT).

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|  | **Class** | **Email Address** | **Senior Leader Contact** |
| Nursery | Pegasus | Mrs Laura Chesters  [lchesters@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:lchesters@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) | Early Years Lead  Mrs Emily Castle  [ecastle@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:ecastle@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
| Mrs Joanne Jeffs  [jjeffs@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:jjeffs@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
| Mrs Mandy Bond  [mbond@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:mbond@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
| Mrs Julia Mennell  [jmennell@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:jmennell@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
| Mrs Vicki Kerley  [vkerley@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:vkerley@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
| Reception | Flora | Mrs Sophie Darling  [sdarling@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:sdarling@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
| Mrs Emily Castle  [ecastle@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:ecastle@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
| Aurora | Mrs Lauren Waller  [lwaller@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:lwaller@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
| Year 1 | Luna | Miss Laura Murray  [lmurray@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:lmurray@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) | Key Stage 1 Lead  Mrs Kirsty Outtram  [kouttram@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:kouttram@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
| Apollo | Mrs Sophie Last  [slast@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:slast@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
| Year 2 | Neptune | Miss Alice Wilson  [awilson@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:awilson@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
| Year 3 | Juno | Miss Melissa Rees  [mrees@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:mrees@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) | Key Stage 2 Lead  Mr Martin Gallop  [mgallop@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:mgallop@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
| Year 4 | Mars | Miss Sinead Kirchin  [skirchin@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:skirchin@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
| Year 5 | Mercury | Mr Martin Gallop  [mgallop@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:mgallop@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |
|  | | | Executive Head  Mr Matthew Shotton  [mshotton@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:mshotton@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk)  Deputy Head  Mrs Donna Tagg  [dtagg@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:dtagg@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) |

For office enquiries please continue to contact either Marilyn Jones at [mevans@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:mevans@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) or Louise Davies at [ldavies@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:ldavies@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) or by calling the school on **01908 410330.**

For more serious concerns please phone: **07704156733 (emergency only)**

It is essential for us that **all our families** are supported throughout any period of closure. Your child’s class teacher will make contact with you over the course of each week that school is closed to check-in with each child in their class. When your child’s class teacher calls, there will be no caller ID but please do answer the phone as we have a duty of care and will work through alternative telephone numbers to ensure we have made contact with every family. We do not wish to send already stretched services that are not necessary to check on the welfare of a family should we not be able to get in contact. We cannot stress enough how important it is to answer these calls. These calls will last a maximum of five minutes, where we will expect to speak to the child, where appropriate and an adult in the house.

**Safeguarding**

**Milton Keynes**

If you have any concerns about a child’s wellbeing, then please contact the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01908 691691.

**Northamptonshire**

If you have any concerns about a child’s wellbeing then please contact the Children First Northamptonshire 0300 1261000 or email on <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/Pages/default.aspx>

**Bedfordshire**

Contact the Integrated Front Door (previously MASH)

Office hours: 01234 718700

Out of hours: 0300 300 8123

You can also email a completed [**Integrated Front Door (previously MASH) referral form**](https://bbcdevwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/Social%20Care%20Health%20and%20Community/Children%20and%20Young%20People/IFD%20Referral%20Form.doc) **(Word) to** [**multiagency@bedford.gov.uk**](mailto:multiagency@bedford.gov.uk)

In an emergency, phone the police on 999.

**And finally,**

Can I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you! We have received some lovely messages of support as we are genuinely trying to do our very best for all of our community, the staff here as always, have been amazing, and I am hugely grateful for their support in this difficult time - things are changing rapidly, and we are trying to communicate with you, as and when we can, but most importantly, we ask everyone to stay safe, look after each other, and remember we are here if you need us!

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Shotton