Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Coronavirus update – school closure**

Following on from my last update, I’m now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice**.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers

***The definition of a Key Worker we are using:***

* clinical staff employed by the NHS
* teachers, including further education teachers and Early Years/nursery teachers
* police officers and community support officers in specified forces
* frontline police staff (civilians) may also be eligible in some areas
* prison officers and some Prison Service staff in prisons in specified areas
* probation officers (senior or not) and, for intermediate rent only, trainee probation officers
* local authority (LA) or local education authority (LEA) or NHS social workers
* Nursery nurses
* Clinical staff
* uniformed staff, below principal level, in fire and rescue services
* armed forces personnel and some civilian Ministry of Defence (MoD) personnel (ie clinical staff, MoD police officers and uniformed staff in the Fire and Defence Service), also including some discharged personnel
* Supermarket delivery drivers

It would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories. Please contact the school office where we will take your details. We will then be in touch again, as soon as we are sure of the staffing we can provide. **Could you do this by 10.00am on Friday 20th March**

We must stress that if one parent is a key worker, the government will expect the other parent to have their child at home. Single parents, who are key workers and have no other care available, will obviously be entitled to a place.

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards. Any children that do come to school and show any signs of the virus will be sent home and be expected to isolate.**

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We’ll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by communicating through parent mail.

**What we’ll continue doing while your child is at home**

Your child’s learning is of course important to us, so we’ll continue to help your child to learn.

* Parents were sent home ideas of things they could be doing with their children during this period. If this goes beyond the Easter holiday we will put further ideas on the class pages of the school website.
* If you wish to contact the school in the meantime, please use the office email to get in touch – office@oldstratford.northants.sch.uk

If your child is entitled to free school meals, we will also be in touch with more information about how you can get support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it’s far from ideal, but we’ll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don’t hesitate to do so via the school office.

Remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Kind Regards,

Karen Sarbutts