



Headteacher: Mrs V Giliker

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### Coronavirus Closure

As you are aware, the Government has taken the decision to partially close schools from 3.30pm today as part of the national response to the Coronavirus. This is necessary for social distancing in order to prevent the spread of the virus. Schools have been asked to remain open for those who are vulnerable (have an Education and Health Care Plan or Social Worker) and children of key workers. A separate email was sent to you earlier today with further information about our emergency child care provision. As a Cluster of schools in Buxton and rural areas, we have agreed a collective approach, aimed to support families during the national closure of schools.

### School Work

Wherever possible, your child's classteacher will be setting work, for example, using apps and websites children are already familiar with, such as My Maths, Spelling Shed, Purple Mash and TTRockstars. Please click on the link to our school website: <https://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/school-closure-coronavirus>, where you can access a range of work for children to complete at home. This includes daily English and maths, downloadable worksheets, interactive web-based tasks and some more creative tasks. Coach Danny has also set some sports tasks to complete. We would also recommend that children read regularly at home throughout the closure and wherever possible, exercise and get plenty of fresh air. All children have been provided with an exercise book and should have their logins for websites they regularly use. More detailed information about work for each class can be found on our website.

### Communication

We will use email and text messages to communicate with our families throughout the closure. Please let us know if your contact details change. You can email your child's teacher throughout the closure on the email addresses on the year group sections of the website, or you may prefer to continue to use Dojo/Tapestry. Wherever possible, we will reply to any questions or queries you may have about the work or if you need log ins. We would also like to see what work children are doing, so please use email, Dojo/Tapestry to send us photos etc. We will also continue to use our Facebook post to celebrate and share learning. You may like to send us posts via email to be shared on the Facebook page – this will be a great way for the whole school community, including older family members to celebrate children's achievements and stay in touch.

### Routines during school closure

Children normally benefit from a clear routine. With the possibility of an extended period of school closure, families are encouraged to consider establishing their own revised routines consisting of:

- Regular bedtimes, wake-up times and meal-times.
- Routine time set aside for school work. It is worth considering completing maths and English tasks in the morning, with topic activities in the afternoon. This would match children's normal routine and help to maintain consistency.
- Time allocated for leisure and exercise. It is important to take time to relax and get some fresh air (if possible) and to establish good exercise routines. You could try some of Danny's sports activities (on the website).



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### Children remaining in school

We will be providing emergency child care for children of key workers whilst at work, who have no other child care, wherever possible. However, if we have more children and adults in school, the risk is greater, so we would ask that you only use school for child care if it is absolutely necessary for you to attend front line work. Ideally, if we have fewer children in school, then this minimises contact and we will be able to sustain our offer for those who need it for as long as possible. If the demand for places is greater than what we are able to provide, we may have to prioritise our offer of places.

### Free School Meals

We are currently working with the catering team to arrange what we can offer for children who are eligible for free school meals. This is likely to be through a voucher scheme; however, details are yet to be finalised with agencies beyond school. We will send you a separate email if you are eligible, with more details, once this has been arranged.

### Early Help

Due to schools being closed, we are unable to provide Early Help, as we would during normal school operating hours. If your family are currently open to Social Care or Early Help, you will already have contact information for Social Workers or Family Support Workers if needed during the closure period. For any new cases, or if you are concerned that a child is suffering or at risk of significant harm, please contact Starting Point: 01629 533190

### Food Bank

We appreciate that some of our families may need extra support and help during this time. Families will be able to access the High Peak Food Bank on Hardwick Square, subject to them still being able to operate.

### Finally...

If you or any of family are concerned, please follow the advice provided by the NHS and Public Health: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Any school events that would have fallen during this closure will be rearranged wherever possible as soon as we return. We look forward to getting things up and running and back to normal as soon as possible, and welcoming all of our children back to school. Thank you for your continued support during this time. Please take care of yourselves and your families.

Yours sincerely

V Giliker (Headteacher)



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