

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware the school is closed from the end of the day, **Friday 20th March**.

Plainly as a country, we are asked to do all we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing.

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear concerns our school children and if children can stay safely at home, they should do so, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. Schools are requested to provide care for a limited number of children

- Children who are vulnerable
- Children whose parents work is critical to the Covid-19 response and
- Children who cannot be safely cared for at home. However, if there is a responsible adult at home, particularly if they are vulnerable, it is far safer to keep your child at home.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the link below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors (see link below), and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision.

Earlier today we sent out a form via ParentMail asking parents to respond by Monday at 12.00 hrs as to whether their professions make them front line keyworkers. As soon as we have received your response we will examine how best to meet your needs with the caveat that we have sufficient staff in good health to meet this need.

With respect to those children who will stay at home, please follow these guidelines:

- If it is 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, we will try to arrange educational provision for them.
- Parents should not rely for childcare on those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying health conditions.
- Parents should 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.

Pupils attending school will need to wear school uniform and arrive at the usual time for the 08.45 start and the day will end at 3.00 pm. We will not be able to provide our normal lunch service so please equip your children with a pack lunch.

With regards to remote learning may ask for your patience. The staff have been working hard this week to run the school normally as we have had almost a full house. Work has been put on SharePoint and plans for further support have been agreed. On Monday the teachers will start to investigate various remote learning methods that work best for their individual classes. We will use all aspects of Office 365 which all pupils have access to.

Core lessons including Maths and English will be delivered daily. This could be via pre-recorded lessons by the teachers or by video conferencing with pupils for instance.

Teachers will (once fully up to speed) talk to pupils once a day. This could be for registration in the morning to discuss the day ahead or for a 'meeting' in which they will deliver part of the curriculum. If your child is in Y3-6 please ensure your child logs on every morning to check their calendar to see if they have been invited to a meeting with their teacher.

SharePoint will be the place to find work that has been set for pupils. Pupils now have their own OneDrive folder which is personal to them and can be accessed by their teacher. This is where we would like all work completed to be saved and the teacher can then mark and give feedback. If you wish to continue to email work to teachers that is acceptable also but it would be easier to create evidence of work files if the children use their OneDrive.

Early Years will send out their daily lessons via Tapestry but parents are welcome to log onto their child's account to be able to access the areas of learning, together with suggested links should you wish to explore these.

The weeks and months ahead will be challenging but we will, teachers and pupils alike adapt rapidly to this new learning environment. May we thank you for your understanding in recent weeks and for your gracious emails of support and encouragement. Procedures have been updated in school in accordance with Government guidelines, and from our experience of keeping the whole community safe.

Next week is an opportunity for teachers to set up resources and these will be altered as needs be. The Easter holidays will be the time for us to fine tune the system such that we are fully prepared for the start of the summer term on 22nd April.

We would like to thank all the staff for their expertise, enthusiasm and dedication to ensuring that Fosse Bank School continues to evolve to meet the unusual demand placed on us during this time.

Yours sincerely

Alison Cordingley
Headmistress

John Bonarius
Acting Chair of Governors