



Norris Bank Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Elena Ponsen

Thursday 19th March 2020

Coronavirus Closure Update

Dear Parents & Carers

At 5.15pm last night, the Secretary of State for Education gave a public statement that all state-funded schools in England would be closed from the end of the school day on Friday 20th March 2020.

Having indicated that all schools would be closed, he then went on to say that schools would be expected to remain open for the children of 'key workers' and for those in various vulnerable categories – providing a safe place and access to meals.

We are expecting a definition of 'key worker' today from the Cabinet Office. As you can appreciate it will take time to determine the nature of this provision and detailed communication will be cascaded as soon as possible from the Local Authority to schools.

Although we have been anticipating such an announcement, and prepared for various scenarios, the limited details so far released raise considerably more questions than answers. You will all have your own legitimate concerns and queries which will no doubt mirror many of my staff teams.

The Secretary of State gave no undertaking that schools would be expected to sustain a pattern of normal learning during the closure; rather that any available staff would be expected to support other frontline efforts.

As you can appreciate nearly all of our teachers are parents with children. Depending on what other schools decide to do this could impact directly on our own capacity to remain open if we have unprecedented staff absence. Priestnall this morning have just announced that they are closing to all pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10.

I will be working throughout the day with the senior leadership team, Governors and with all staff, to clarify as best we can what this announcement means for the school, for our children and for you. I anticipate providing more details later today as soon as we know more.

Thank you for your support and for your patience in the meantime.

For the next two days, school will continue to work as we have thus far and continue as normal within the COVID-19 Public Health England guidance.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Ponsen

Headteacher

