



Lydgate Junior School

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Dear Parents,

As I am sure you already know all schools in the UK are to close at the end of the school day today (Friday 20 March) until further notice. Not one person thinks that this, absolutely necessary step, is going to be easy to accommodate for any family but it is one we undoubtedly have to make.

For next week, Monday 23rd March to Friday 27th March, we will be open for the children of identified key workers, along with limited categories of vulnerable children, only. These parents will be contacted separately having already replied to our survey sent out yesterday.

The overarching principle is that children should be at home if possible. It is essential that **no child** who has any of the identified health conditions that puts them at additional risk attends school regardless of their vulnerability. A list of identified health conditions can be found by following the below link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

We understand that your job role may change and you may need to use school for your child unexpectedly. The list we have is not therefore final or limited. If your situation changes please contact us.

We want to support families to continue to keep all our children safe, happy and learning. We will remain available for you to contact through all the usual routes – email, website, telephone, in writing. We will be sending pupils home to day with some basic essentials – a collection of reading books, exercise books, homework books, passwords and usernames for online learning, and so on. Rather than issue one huge list of suggestions of things to do with your child at home we will be regularly sending you blocks of linked learning ideas – maybe a week's worth at a time. We will provide ideas, links and prompts, but we cannot at this time provide two-way, interactive online learning with the class teacher. We will try to avoid sending things that have to be printed out as we know not every household has facility to do this. Each year group will send out the activities for these children so you should only get the relevant materials and links.

Two points to note, please:

We may recommend a video clip hosted on You Tube that demonstrates a method or provides information. As the site can then provide links to material that we have not screened you may want to supervise this access.

We are only providing ideas and outlines. We do not anticipate any child being at this for six hours a day – let them play, go outside, exercise, talk, read, explore, be creative, bake, rest, follow an interest, practice ...

School staff will, if possible, continue working – some will be at school with those children who are allowed to attend. Some may work at other sites to enable them to stay open. Some may be working from home. They will try to stay in touch, but even where we open email contact from year groups to parents they will not be able to provide online individual tutoring; the demand would vastly overwhelm our capacity.



We are a Rights Respecting School that delivers an engaging and exciting education for all.

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All our pupils will remain our pupils and we will remain deeply concerned about their well-being. If you have questions or concerns about any aspect of this school closure or about a child's welfare you should contact us at school.

Thank you for your continued support for school, for our pupils and for the Sheffield community. I am sure you will whole-heartedly support the efforts being made to safeguard the most vulnerable people in our society.

Best wishes,

SR Jones
Headteacher