



Turnfurlong Junior School

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20th March 2020

School Closure update in response to COVID19

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will have heard on the news, the Prime Minister has closed all schools in England from Friday (20th March). We will close our gates at 3:15pm.

We will be sending children home with all of their belongings; PE kits, water bottles, and pencil cases and any musical instruments. We do not know how long this closure will be for. Please ensure that all of these items are given a deep clean so as to limit the spread of any illness upon return.

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This is why the Government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing, and the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should do, to limit the chance of the virus spreading further and this is why the Government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open, as a childcare facility, only for those children who absolutely need to attend. In reality the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings the lower the risk that the virus will continue to spread.

Schools are therefore being asked to provide care for a very limited number of children. Please find below our response to this request.

Child Care Provision

As per the Government guidance, school will remain open for essential 'key worker' Children during school hours, to allow them to attend their normal place of work. We will also be open for certain identified pupils only and these parents have been contacted directly.

We are currently working on a three-stage approach to managing this situation.

Stage 1 – childcare provision until Easter

Stage 2 – childcare provision during the Easter holidays

Stage 3 – childcare provision after the Easter holidays

Therefore, our proposal sets out the following:

Thank you to those parents who have identified themselves as key workers. Please note that childcare will be provided between 8.45 – 3.15 only and a packed lunch must be provided for your child. Please also note that we will be providing a childcare provision, not school provision, and children will not be receiving any normal classes or normal structure or routine. Activities similar to holiday club will be

provided and the opportunity for children to work independently on the work teachers have set online.

The term used by Gavin Williamson, MP, this morning was that schools would be 'repurposed' to support vulnerable children as well as support key workers with childcare so that they are able to carry out the very critical duties that are much needed at this time. Pupils will be cared for in the school hall and library so please drop your child via the side door of the hall, please do not enter the building to drop off or collect. Children will be collected from this same door. Own clothes should be worn and these should be freshly washed before wearing and the recommendation is that they are removed and washed as soon as a child comes home to limit the spread of infection. Children do not need to wear school uniform.

Please note that social distancing must be enforced whilst your child is not in school if we are to prevent/minimise the spread of infection. If your child is due to attend and is unable to, or the provision is no longer needed, please email the school office before the start of the day.

Symptoms

Even though we remain open for child-care for these specific groups of children, as per the government guidelines, anyone who displays the symptoms of a new persistent dry cough or a high temperature should self-isolate themselves, along with other members of their household, for 14 days. Please keep your children at home if this applies to you and your household for the health and safety of the staff and children who remain within our setting.

Extended hours/Easter Holiday Provision

We will be offering Early Risers provision for those families who normally access this service, we will assume that you will continue to attend unless you let us know otherwise. If you now require this provision as a key worker, please email bursar@tjs.org.uk urgently.

If you require after school provision, please contact Little Rascals or Jonathan Page through the contact details below:

Jonathan Page -

Little Rascals – [littlerascalsschoolclub2017@gmail.com](mailto:littleascalsschoolclub2017@gmail.com) or 07729 435319

Jonathan Page are allocating places for key workers during the Easter holidays, if you require this please contact them directly.

Staffing

Due to the current staffing issues facing schools, with staff self-isolating and/or being unwell themselves, please be aware that we may still need to close our further provision should our staffing levels fall too low to maintain safe provision. We will inform you of this via email

Work for Pupils

We currently have no indication of how long the school will be closed for; teachers will provide work online via Show My Homework and this will be updated regularly.



The School will be in regular contact with parents via email. If you have any concerns or queries during this time please send an email to the office email address and this will be checked daily (weekdays) by staff – email address is office@tjs.org.uk. Please avoid phoning the school office with queries and use the e-mail system.

While we hope you can facilitate some work with your children at home, we urge parents not to worry overly about their child regressing academically. Every child across the country will be in this situation and ultimately, they will be okay. When we are back in the classroom, we will work hard to fill in any gaps. In this difficult time, please do not become too concerned if children are reluctant to complete work. At the end of all of this, your children's mental health will be more important than their academic skills. How they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during these weeks. We know some children are perhaps concerned right now and may be picking up on the tension and anxiety around us. They have never experienced anything like this before. We need children to feel comforted, loved and reassured.

Safeguarding

In the event that you have a safeguarding concern whilst your child is not attending school, please call First Response on 0845 4600001, or in an emergency call the Police on 101 or 999 if help is needed immediately.

If you feel that you are struggling and/or require support yourself, please email office@tjs.org.uk. We can then direct your message to the most appropriate person, who will try to support in any way they can.

During this time, all the staff of Turnfurlong Junior School send you their best wishes and we hope you all keep safe and healthy. We look forward to welcoming you back to us as soon as we are able to. We will miss the children greatly during this time. We will of course, keep you updated as things develop.

Please take care and thank you for your understanding and support.

Mrs J Divers
Headteacher

