



Star Primary School  
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Head Teacher: Ms L. Von Buchenroder

*Nurturing &  
growing together*

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### **School Closure due to Coronavirus:**

I know that there is going to be a lot of information in this letter for you to take in and I urge you to read this carefully so that you fully understand all the implications of what will be put in place from Monday. The school has been instructed to close in the Government's efforts to slow down the rapid spread of the Covid-19 strand of Coronavirus. It is very important that we all support this plan by having as limited social contact with others as possible. Schools are closing not because it is not a safe place to be, but because we need to reduce the risk of spreading the disease and overwhelming our NHS. **The school will therefore be closed from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 until further notice.**

### **Children of Keyworkers:**

**We will only be able to provide a small childcare provision for the children of keyworkers** (These include Doctors, Nurses, Police, Firefighters and other public servants who work in emergency services as well as teachers or staff employed in Education – A full list of these professions will be available later today). All other children must remain at home and have very limited access to people other than family members who live in the same house as them. This is a very important strategy to slow down the spread so that the most vulnerable people in society can get the care they need.

### **Vulnerable Families:**

There are some families who are working with social services and have a dedicated Social Worker. The school will be able to accommodate these children in school to make sure that they are safe and have the care they need. **These children will need to come to school unless told otherwise.**

Some children have a Free School Meal (FSM) Allocation. This is something that you needed to have applied for through the councils benefit department. All families who have this entitlement will be able to collect a Breakfast/Cereal pack once a week from the school, and also have access to a daily "Grab and Go" packed lunch which will be available from the school office between 12 and 12:30pm. **These children will not be in school.**

### **Home Learning Packs:**

Staff have prepared home learning packs which will start coming home with your child today. Each pack has some age-appropriate work for the children to do at home. On the school website you will find a dedicated page to Home Learning which we have created for parents and pupils. The link to this will appear on the home page of the website on Monday.





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There are tabs for each year with a suggested timetable of what the day could look like for children. I strongly recommend that parents get their children to follow this structure because home learning can be very challenging to manage if unstructured. We have kept this in line with the school day timings so that children can still enjoy limited free time on games and other activities in the afternoon. **However, I cannot stress enough the dangers of letting your child play unsupervised games online all day long. Not only is this highly addictive but it will result in mental health problems and difficult behaviour in the long run. You also need to carefully monitor their use of phones and social media. I do not recommend that Primary Aged children have mobile phones.** Because we know children love computer based learning, we have suggested lots of positive activities to do online and in the packs you should find the passwords to access these resources which will be more beneficial to your child's development.

#### **Length of Closure:**

This will depend on how successful we are as a country, in containing the spread of the virus. That is why it is important that everyone take this extremely seriously and limit any social contact as much as possible. I cannot guarantee that the school will be able to open after the Easter Holidays. However, we will continue to be in touch with all families via parent mail and the staff will be continuing to provide work and resources to support home learning.

This is an International Pandemic that has thrown the world into great turmoil. I am appealing again for us to look after each other and support the community through this very tough time. The public is being asked to please stop panic buying and depleting stocks in the supermarkets. This is not because there are shortages due to Coronavirus, but because we are acting selfishly and not thinking about others. **Star is a Rights Respecting School and now is a good time to reflect that we all have a right to health, supplies and treatment when we are ill. Let's make that happen together to see each other through these uncertain times.**

The staff and I will be here for you to answer any questions and provide any assistance that we can. Please stay safe and healthy.

Best Wishes

Ms Von

