

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister, and linked to the growing number of pupils and staff who are not able to attend school for reasons linked to COVID-19, we will be closing school with effect from **Friday 20th March 2020**.

As you can appreciate, at the moment we are unsure when school will reopen as we are guided by the Government. However, we will keep parents informed via the text service, website, twitter or email. Further information linked to school closures can be accessed via the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Home Learning

As pupils can no longer attend classes, we will ensure pupils have a range of learning activities to complete at home. These will be uploaded onto our school website <https://sssj.bolton.sch.uk> under the learning tab, then home learning. The website details home learning for all pupils from Early Years to Year 6. Throughout the course of the school closure we will regularly update this home learning page and parents will be informed via the text messaging service. Please ensure your contact details, including mobile numbers are up to date with school.

Critical Workers and Vulnerable Pupils

Linked to Government advice, we will be looking to assist families as best we can, and we are looking to work alongside the Local Authority in the provision of assistance to the most vulnerable families. We will continue to provide school meals for those pupils in school.

However, it is important to note that the Government have asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Therefore we will be providing a childcare facility for the children of critical workers as identified by the Government in the latest announcement.

School will be open from 8.45am to 3.15pm for pupils of critical workers or vulnerable pupils. Pupils will be expected to wear their school uniform and enter through the front office.

Critical workers are detailed in the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Should you wish your child to access childcare at school due to you being a critical worker/having a vulnerable child, you will need to contact school by end of Monday 23rd March to register.

Please be advised that school will need to see evidence of your occupation to ensure that you fall into the critical workers category. If you are unsure then Government advice is to confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential service.

Free School Meals

I know that for many families it will be a difficult time financially. The Local Authority have undertaken the role of producing school dinners for those qualifying for Free School Meals. The kitchen staff will ensure packed lunches are available for those pupils who are in receipt of free school meals. At the moment, this does not include families who are in receipt of universal free school meals (Reception, year 1 and year 2). These will be available daily and we ask that parents receive their meals directly from the kitchen which can be accessed via the small car park at 1pm. As you can appreciate, we are also trying to avoid any food wastage so these will need to be booked in advance by contacting the school.

I have also added the website of local foodbanks below.

<https://www.urbanoutreach.co.uk/portfolio-posts/storehouse/>

<https://farnworthkearsley.foodbank.org.uk/>

In the meantime, please continue to follow government advice during the days/weeks ahead. We are all looking forward to a time when all members of the school community can get back to normal operations. For now though, we must all commit to doing the best that we can to look after ourselves and each other in these extremely unusual and challenging circumstances.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your patience, your understanding and your support at this difficult time. I hope that you will join me in keeping in your prayers all that are being deeply affected by the current situation.

Yours sincerely



Miss K Jones

Principal