



Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear parent/carer,

I am writing to provide you with further information following yesterday's announcement of school closures.

### **Key workers and vulnerable children**

As yet, the government have not indicated which professions are included as key workers or how they are indicating who the vulnerable children are. So that we can plan ahead and ensure we have enough staff to care for children, I have today shared two forms: one is open to all parents who may need to identify as a key worker and the second has been sent to parents of children who are likely to be classified as vulnerable. As indicated by the government yesterday, these include children with an EHCP or a social worker. We have also included children in families who received Pupil Premium funding.

If you have not yet completed the form, please follow the links below and register your child.

[Key worker](#)

[Vulnerable children](#)

If you fall into one of the above groups and find that you later require childcare, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and we will be happy to accommodate your child.

If your child is going to be in school during the closure, then a range of activities will be provided for them. As this is an exceptional time, they will not need to come in their uniform and can instead wear their home clothes.

### **Breakfast Club**

It is important to us that all children have enough to eat during the school closures, particularly given the current shortages in supermarkets. We will therefore be offering breakfast to all children, even those who will not be in school all day. Breakfast club will be open from 8am to 9.30am each day for at least the next two weeks, after which we will review our provision. Unless children are staying in school, parents will need to wait with children while they have breakfast – and are welcome to eat with their child. I would ask that you make the most of the long opening times so that we can ensure a minimum number of people in school at any one time.

### **Free School Meals**

The government has said that children in receipt of free school meals continue to receive support during the closure. For the next two weeks we hope to provide meals in school each day. We are currently working hard with AIP, our caterers, to organise this and I hope to be able to give you further information tomorrow. Moving forward, we will be looking at other ways of supporting families, including supermarket vouchers and will update you further as soon as we can.

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### **Learning for children**

Tomorrow, each child will be provided with an exercise book and pencils. From Monday, learning set by your child's class teacher will be emailed to parents and uploaded to the website at 3pm each day. This work should be completed the following day. Further information on what will be provided can be found below.

In addition, children have been given log-on details to 2 maths websites: TimesTable Rock Stars and Numbots (log-in details are the same for both accounts) where they can continue to develop their basic maths skills. The website also contains links to a range of other websites with free activities for learning and we will continue to update this as more sites become available. There are also links to websites which support PE and exercise as well as to those for Maths and English.

Class teachers will be contacting children weekly by phone to check that they are able to access the learning and see if there is anything we can help with. This may be from the school phone number or from a private or withheld number. We may also conduct home visits to have face to face doorstep contact with children from time to time.

### **Safeguarding**

Our duty to keep all children in our care safe continues during the closure. If you have any concerns about the safety or well-being of any family in our community, please email us on our new email [concerns@ivingswoodacademy.org](mailto:concerns@ivingswoodacademy.org). Any information will be treated with the strictest confidence, but we may need to contact you for more information.

### **Help and Support**

Closing schools during term time for an indefinite period is unprecedented and is likely to put a strain on many families across the country. Whilst we won't be seeing our children on a daily basis, we will continue to care for them and for you. If at any time, you need some help or support please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our very best to support you. This extends beyond learning as we know that self-isolation is likely to impact financially and emotionally on everyone.

Tomorrow will be a strange day for all of us as we prepare to say goodbye to our children and families for an indefinite period: something that no one has ever imagined having to do. Schools are very strange places without children and I speak for all the Ivingswood staff when I say that our school simply won't feel right until we can welcome all our children back, whenever that may be. Until that time, I hope that all your families stay healthy and safe.

With very best wishes,

Julie-Ann Swaysland

Headteacher

### **Reading**

- Year 5 and Year 6 - 1 hour a day
- Year 3 and Year 4 – 45 minutes a day
- Year 1 and Year 2 – 30 minutes a day
- Reception - 15 minutes

Please remember that any book is good. Shared reading is as good as the children's reading books. Being read to by someone else is as important as reading.

### **Basic Skills**

Spelling – We will send weekly spellings home. We suggest that parents help their children to practise during the week and test their children on a Friday. Encourage children to use the 'look, cover, write, check method'.

Times tables – We will give you some idea of mental maths to practise. In the same way you could test your child on a Friday. Don't forget to encourage children to access Time Table Rockstars and Numbots.

### **Core learning**

We will email work and any supporting information (video links, websites etc.) home for 2 subjects a day: Maths and English. Additionally, across the week there will be a piece of learning linked to topic and/or Science. Key Stage 2 pupils will receive both Science and Topic within the week.

We are acutely aware that learning remotely is going to be challenging and can put pressure on relationships at home so we are trying to get a balance between continued learning without overloading families and causing negative memories.

The majority of work will be done in an exercise book which we are going to send home on Friday. Year 2 and Year 6 will have SATs revision books and work will be set from here in the same way. These will need to be collected from school on Monday.

### **Extended learning**

We may well point you to some other activities – watching interesting documentaries related to our learning, encourage growing and cooking, making things etc. These won't be compulsory but hopefully will be helpful. It is important to remember that learning for children happens everywhere, not just in school. This is a great opportunity to learn a new skill with your child: cooking, sewing, growing food etc.

### **School Day**

Please try and get your child to complete their work during the school day 9.00 until 3.30. It will be important going forward to get a new routine in place. It is really important that the children still get their leisure time. The website has an idea of a daily timetable that could be followed.

## **Advice for Parents**

There are some simple things that we would recommend that you do:

**Be positive and keep a balanced approach** – keep news of the Coronavirus simple and stick to the facts. Be clear about how they can help minimise risk by thoroughly washing hands etc. The BBC's Newsround has age appropriate content: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51204456>

**Keep to a routine** – adhering to routines and marking the start and end of the school day will add structure and support pupils' independent endeavours. Develop a timetable for the week.

**Draw on the benefits of no commute** – pupils can get more sleep with a later wakeup time

**Avoid later bedtimes** – keep to the usual mid-week schedule. Look out for increased time on phones and social media.

**Encourage interaction with others** – visiting a friend or at the very least using video calls rather than constant texting or other social media use

**Social Media Use** - limit the use of social media and monitor closely what your child is posting as well as any messages received

**Exercise** – try to find an alternative to plug the gap of school sports e.g. walking / running / playing with siblings

**Family time** – where possible, encourage pupils and parents who are able to work from home to do so in communal spaces in the house, limiting 'alone time' where possible

**Subscribe to newspapers or online content** – it is good to keep up to date and connected with the outside world

**Make the most of the free time** – encourage reading, creative activities, a family reading group or a reading group amongst friends

**Reach out to others** – is there another family or elderly person in your area that could be supported? Could a couple of pupils work together and families share the resources required to look after them?