



19.03.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the announcement yesterday that schools will close from tomorrow, Friday 20 March, we are hoping to seek further clarification regarding the implications for our school throughout today. I understand that many of you will have questions about the weeks ahead, please be assured that we are passing all the information we have to you. We will continue to do this over the next few days. To assist with this, please ensure you return the reply slip confirming your contact details and that you can access eSchools. I am sure you can imagine, every member of the school staff are working very hard to ensure that today and tomorrow will be as smooth as possible for your children. To assist us with this, please try to avoid phoning the school unless absolutely necessary today and tomorrow.

We know that everybody is anxious about the current climate. The following information includes decisions made with the staff and our chair of Governors, Andy Hitchcock, this morning.

- Thank you to those parents who have provided details that you, your partner, or both understand that you are classed as 'key workers'. We are of the understanding that schools will receive a **definitive** list of 'key workers' this afternoon from the Government. Please presume that if you do not receive a subsequent email by the close of school tomorrow entitled "**Key Worker parent information regarding child care**" then you **DO NOT MEET THE GOVERNMENT CRITERIA**. It may be that both parents need to be key workers to meet the criteria. At this time, there are many questions that I can simply not answer.
- The briefing last night suggested that children eligible for a free school meal will receive a food voucher. We are currently waiting further guidance on this
- We currently have 9 teachers and teaching assistants who are self-isolating as per the Government guidelines due to underlying medical conditions and are classed as high risk. None of them are showing any symptoms.
- No 'extra' reading books will be sent home.
- Holiday club is cancelled, further information will follow regarding the transfer of funds.

We would like to achieve something positive tomorrow since this is the last day of normal operations. Friday will be 'Rainbow Day'. Can you please send your child to school in colourful and cheerful clothing in exchange for an item of tinned or packet food which we will give to the local foodbank to help those in our community who need it most. Children will carry out various activities including painting/drawing rainbows which they will take home. Can we ask that you display these in your window at home for other children to spot around Toton.

I cannot emphasise enough that parents should not replicate the daily routines of school. You are not being asked to home-school your child. The best thing you can do is spend time with your child, play a board game, bake, dance and explore the environment.

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Modern education is not what we experienced as children. Give them 'alone time' too. Just be with them and reassure them and we will make sure that your child has the tools needed to succeed in school when the time comes. For now just be a family.

If your child craves more structure then look at the further information and ideas of learning opportunities and activities you could do with your child on our school website (www.banksroadschool.co.uk) under '**Our Learning**'. This will be available from tomorrow. Here you will find information for each year group with ideas for practical activities, links to online learning, printable work you can do with your child and access to *Rising Stars Reading Planet* - the online reading scheme you can access with your child. We hope these pages will be helpful. These pages will be reviewed and updated in the event that we do not return from school following the Easter break

We hope you will find this support helpful. We don't want to add to your stress at this difficult time. If you can only prioritise one thing please make it that you read regularly and share books with your child.

I will be sending out further information when, indeed if, we receive any guidance from the Government.

In the meantime, I would like to thank all our parents and carers for the kind words of support that we have received throughout the last few days.

Yours sincerely

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