



Stoke Bishop Church of England Primary School

Update and Guidance for Parents on the closure of school

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly a huge thank you for the calm, positive way in which you have handled the last few days. It has been a bit of shock and then a little craziness for all of us. The cloakrooms and classrooms are virtually clear but if you still need to pick up some items they have not been disposed of yet and will be available until the end of school on Tuesday.

Just to summarise where we have got to:

- Children should have come home today with a workbook and, some children have brought home stationary packs. They should have at least one, new reading book. Their learning resources will be online from Monday at 10.00am at the latest. This will grow over time as both you, the children and the teachers get used to different ways of doing things. Initially we expect there may be some hitches. If it prevents you doing a particular thing on a particular day that is not the end of the world. It's the long term that counts. The teachers are available to support you – not all day every day but the team will be rotating their teaching responsibilities in school and will look to respond between 9 – 4pm when they are not teaching. That means sometimes you'll get a quick answer and other times it may take a couple of days – but they're not ignoring you!
- The children of Key Workers will be returning to school on Monday. This is a full-time provision and the expectation is that children will be in full time. I understand that this may make it difficult for some parents but ultimately the aim of the school closures is that as few children as possible are in school. All but a very few parents should be in a position to say to employers that they have child care restrictions and – as with our staff – need some flexibility/ support to work when they can. If you are requesting part – time we are not offering that as a solution at the moment.

The children will receive a full curriculum that is very focussed on their specific needs and the progress they need. At the same time we will be looking for opportunities to have fun – in ways that aren't necessarily possible with a full school. The teachers are adapting materials to support this effectively and, once again they are learning. If things aren't working or there are issues for your child you can communicate with them in all the usual ways.

Please bring your children in to school in the normal way at the normal time. If your child is in:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Explorers (Reception) | - they will use R1 door |
| Discoverers (Y1/2) | - they will meet on the top playground |
| Inventors (Y3/4) | - they will meet by the ramp into the main building |
| Innovators (Y5/6) | - they will meet outside the Y6 classrooms |

They should be collected from exactly the same place at 3.30pm.

- If your child is eligible for Free School Meals (not Universal Free School Meals as applied to all Reception & KS1 children) then you will have received an email regarding arrangements and the choices you can make regarding support with meals. Please make sure you have seen / read it and then reply if you need to.
- Breakfast Club will be running and available to the children of Key Workers. You will need to sign up in the usual way on their website.
<https://www.myshine.co.uk/school/stoke-bishop-primary-school>
- After School Club is still making a decision this evening. I will communicate with Key Workers via the What's App group as to whether they will be able to run effectively and what the options are if not.
- If you are not yet a member of the What's App grp you can contact them on 07733305635 requesting to be added.

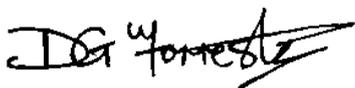
We are not sure when we will return to a normal school environment. If that is a much longer journey than we hope for it may mean that we do not see our Y6 again in a normal classroom situation. Whatever the circumstances we will arrange things so that we do see you again and you will get the opportunity to celebrate your time at Stoke Bishop C of E Primary School properly.

I will finish by emphasising that the whole reason for closure is about not spreading the virus. Whilst staff are willing to work and want to be supportive I would ask all parents to consider whether it is actually essential that they are in work over being at home. If you can have your children at home we thoroughly recommend that you do so. The more school staff and their families that I can protect through focussing on essential support the better. If your child or any member of your family is ill then please follow all the guidance by informing us and self-isolating.

The situation may shift to a point where we request of some parents that you do actually keep children at home, based on further guidance or sheer numbers of staff available. This would be done on a priority basis.

To those parents who are working on the front line of efforts to contain and deal with Covid 19, I wish you the very best in what are exceedingly trying times. Whatever we can do for you that enables you to contribute then we will do our best. Much gratitude and our prayers go with you for the skill and effort you are putting in for the sake of all of us.

Best wishes to you all and I look forward to seeing you in happier times.



David Forrester