



Wallace Fields Junior School

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Update 19th March 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all for your kind comments and for pulling together with us as a community at this time. The teachers and all staff have been incredible and right now we need to think of the impact on others as well as ourselves I appreciate that every day may bring different news and more issues to solve, but your efforts and cooperation are hugely appreciated. Thank you for your relentless support and patience.

As you will be already well aware, the government made an announcement last night to say that all schools will be closed from Monday 23 March 2020. However, the statement lacked any detail and a lot is still not known to us, making this a very difficult situation for all of us.

Key update points are:

We are **open as usual** until the end of this week including clubs.

National Tests Cancelled. This morning the DfE have formally cancelled the Key Stage 2 National Tests (SATs) in May 2020 and we will be discussing how the school will report levels of assessment for the academic year.

From Monday, school will only be open for a specific group of pupils, including children of key workers and vulnerable pupils but there is no clear definition at the moment.

We will be in touch with all parents of pupils in the vulnerable category before the end of Friday, to advise of the provision that will be in place for your child.

We have already begun to plan tasks for all pupils and for the time being there are plenty of online activities for the children to be getting on with if they are already absent due to illness or self-isolation. These include Mathletics, Times Tables Rock Stars and Spelling Shed – there are games and activities on all these sites.

We are planning tasks for all pupils so children can carry on learning remotely, and whilst we have already been working hard to prepare for this eventuality, you will appreciate there is a huge



amount to do still. We will be in touch at the beginning of next week with as much information as we can about where to find tasks, the expectations and the access process.

Due to completion of the Parents' Evening slips and early preparation for closure, we politely request that you do not email teachers requesting individual tasks and work for your child as this is in hand. Teachers do not currently have time to reply individually to the huge number of emails they are receiving. Please be patient and look out for detailed information being sent out. Due to the needs of assessment and evidence, exercise books are not being sent home. We do have a limited number of exercise books that can be distributed if you need one. Some tasks will be completed online but not all – we know that computers are also used by parents in the day to work from home and so the tasks will be balanced.

Please continue to observe advice around self-isolation for 7 days for pupils with symptoms of the Coronavirus and 14 days for pupils who live with someone with symptoms of the Covid-19.

Key workers at present include those parents/carers who work for the NHS, police, and delivery drivers. This list is going to be clarified by the DfE today and once that is known we will be asking those of you in this category to confirm your role via a form emailed to you and asking if you qualify if you would want to take up school provision for your child. You must accept or decline this offer and it is not possible to opt in or out sporadically. In the meantime, we will be working hard over the next few days to establish what that provision will include.

Library Books: Please can parents ensure they return overdue library books tomorrow, and we are making sure that all children will have access to the library (today and) tomorrow to choose new books. We are also extending the number of books they can borrow at a time, from two to three.

Book Fair 11.30am Friday 20th March 2020: An additional opening of the book fair has been organised by Mrs Bruen so children can bring in money in a labelled envelope and will have a chance to buy books at in the morning.

Food Bank Mufti Day Friday 20th March 2020: Tomorrow has been allocated as a Foodbank Mufti Day. Please bring in one item of dry non-perishable food – packets, tins, biscuits etc. in order for your child to wear their own clothes and this food will be donated to a local food bank that is under additional pressure at this time.

We know that the government announcement will raise many questions for you, as it has done for us, and we are grateful for your patience as we await clarification from the government on the key aspects. When it comes in we will then put together a plan which will support all of our pupils and hopefully answer those questions.

Kindest regards

Mr Steve Lee
HEAD TEACHER

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