



Alfred Street Junior School

Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 9YS
Web site: www.alfredstreetjunior.org
Email: head@alfredstreet.northants-ecl.gov.uk

Telephone: 01933 353762
Fax: 01933 355955

Headteacher: Mrs K O'Connor
School Business Manager: Mrs Debbie Heffernan

19.3.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the announcement made by the Government yesterday, I am writing to you with an update.

As a result of the announcement as instructed, we are closing to students at the end of the school day on **Friday 20th March at 3.35pm**. This is until further notice for all children.

We will be seeking to put into place care provision for those that are most vulnerable i.e. have a social worker attached to their family or an EHCP, and for those that are children of Key Workers. We are awaiting further clarification from the Government of who this includes and what this entails. Once we have gathered this information and identified the children, we will communicate the information with those relevant parents and carers

You may also have heard that there will be no public examinations this year in Year 2, Year 6, Year 11 or Year 13, this also includes the multiplication test in Y4. We fully understand that our pupils and their parents will be very worried and anxious and will have many questions following the announcement. We await further information from the Department for Education and will share this as soon as it is provided.

We urge all students to understand that continuing to study from home during our closure places them in the best possible position to continue their studies when we get back to school. For our Year 6 children, although SATs have been cancelled it is vital that they continue to revise to ensure they do not have any gaps in learning when they start Secondary School.

Teachers and Support Staff in our school have already prepared resources and made other preparations for students to learn at home and these packs were sent out with children today.

Home learning expectations

Whilst school is closed, we expect the children to complete the following activities daily in line with what we would do in a normal school day:

- Reading (this could be a book from home or an e-book (see online learning sheet for links) and record in their Reading Record Book
 - Times Tables practise – complete activities in their Times Table Practise book or online
 - Physical activity – workouts, see online learning sheet for links
 - Curriculum development – learning packs and see online learning sheet for links

We also, as a school, subscribe to the following websites and the Teachers will ensure that your child has all of the relevant passwords for on line learning in their Reading Record/Homework Book:

Create - Learn - Progress
There is no limit!



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Spelling Shed <https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb>

Maths Shed <https://www.mathshed.com/en-gb>

Purple Mash <https://www.purplemash.com/>

In addition, if you have access to the internet we have sourced a range of free and safe learning materials and activities for all subjects that the children can access. This will be emailed out to parents and a copy can be found on our website in the Learning section:

<https://www.alfredstreetjunior.org/index.php/learning/links-for-pupils>

Online educational publishers Twinkl have also offered all parents free access to all of its resources for a month to support continued learning at home.

We will continue to add further resources on to the school website in our Learning Section as we receive them and will notify you of these additions.

We would ask that you keep a daily log of the activities completed in their Reading Record Book or Homework book so that we can reward children upon return for their efforts.

Children entitled to Free School Meals

For those families whose children are entitled to free school meals, there will be arrangements for a lunch pack to be collected from a designated site. Further information regarding this will be sent out to those that this applies to.

How to contact us during the school closure:

I want to reassure you that at this challenging time, we will continue to update you and keep you informed. However, if you have specific serious concerns at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact us. If staff are not required to be supporting in the care of keyworkers/vulnerable learners, they will continue to work from home in their normal hours so we will endeavour, to the best of our means, to offer any support as it is needed. If you wish to make contact please use the following methods:

Email Mrs O'Connor using head@alfredstreet.northants-ecl.gov.uk

Email School admin using bursar@alfredstreet.northants-ecl.gov.uk

Email Mrs Watts, Family Support Worker using W.Watts@alfredstreet.northants.sch.uk or contact her during school hours on the school mobile number 07914989065

We will be checking our emails daily and I will ensure that any queries are shared with the relevant teacher and I will email you back as soon as I can. If you need to speak directly to someone, please indicate this in your email and we will endeavour to contact you.

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Keeping you informed:

All further communication will be shared via our website, the Alfred Street Junior School Facebook Page and the ParentApp.

We may also try to call some of the families that we normally support, throughout the closure, to enquire about your welfare and to offer support.

I understand that this is a turbulent time and I know that our children may be anxious or upset. I also know that some parents may not agree with the decisions that the government is making. I ask that you trust that we are making the very best decisions we can in the face of a national emergency and in the best interests of our own school community.

As difficult as this situation is, for the good of society I urge you to follow government guidance over the coming weeks. This includes not leaving young children unsupervised and not leaving children in the care of people over the age of 70. Can I also remind you that if you or someone in your household develop a fever or dry cough, that you follow the advice and self-isolate for **14 days** in order to help eliminate the spread of the virus.

Again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation. I very much hope that you are all able to keep safe and healthy.

Kind regards

Mrs K O'Connor
Head Teacher

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