



March 19th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Ovingham Middle School

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that we have now been instructed to close our schools to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.

Key Workers

We will do all that we can to stay open for the children of **key workers** (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services in the food chain) and children with certain needs. We are still awaiting guidance as to who this is but are considering responses on a case by case basis. You will be contacted directly if you responded to the first correspondence this morning. We are also speaking to parents of children who we believe to be in a vulnerable category, such as children with and EHCP.

We will currently only planning to be able to provide care where **BOTH** parents are key workers or where children live with a single parent who is a key worker. We will keep this under review and await guidance but we are also determined to be fair and equitable to those most in need. As the prime minister said last night schools will be safe because they will have low numbers of children in them. Please do not ask us to offer childcare to your child unless you believe you qualify and have no viable alternative. If you feel you have a legitimate case, please speak to the Headteacher who will seek further advice about this as we recognize that each case may be slightly different. We are not trying to be difficult – just to get it right with limited information.

Further information will be sent for those small numbers of children who are attending on Monday.

Free School Meals

From Monday, if your child is in receipt of a free school meal, we will continue to provide this to you, if you have indicated that you need it, even if your child is not at school. Please call school to find out our arrangements for this

Working at Home

Booklets have now been prepared for students to take home tomorrow for; English, Maths, Science, French and RE.

In addition to this work will be available on school360 as previously explained.

We are all very sad here and we recognize that this is beyond stressful for everyone. We can only assert that we are doing our best. Social distancing is the most important thing to do at this time, so please when your children come home on Friday, follow the government guidance. The decisions we make today, will affect what happens in Intensive Care Units in two weeks' time. Please remember that and keep safe.

Further updates will follow as we get them.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice A. Witherow".

Alice Witherow

Chief Executive Officer