

Whitefield Primary School

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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE – HOME LEARNING

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had the news late yesterday afternoon that schools will be closed from Friday afternoon. For Whitefield this means we will close at 3.30pm for the majority of children and at 6pm for those children still accessing BOLA.

This letter is to let you know of the home schooling provision we have in place whilst schools are closed.

Today, we have uploaded to our school website activities for specific year groups. These lists will also be coming home today with your child in paper form. The activities include some online learning as well as activities the children can do without technology.

There is no specific guidance on how long your child should spend on their school work at home, however I would encourage you all to stick to some kind of timetable that has for example, a 30 minute focused task, followed by some creative, fun activity and continue that style of cycle.

If you are on Facebook, there are some amazing ideas being shared. I have also seen a Facebook page called 'Penwortham Coronavirus Support' which is sharing activity ideas for children and also key information about what is occurring in and around the area.

The National Trust have also opened up all their gardens for free (houses/building and cafes are closed) so if you can, this would be a lovely day out (remember to socially distance yourself from others).

We have received official confirmation today that national assessment tests will not be taking place this year so there will be no SATs testing for Year 6 and Year 2. The end of year reception assessments, Year 1 phonics screening and Year 4 times tables check will not take place.

At this moment, we do not know how long the school closures will last. The home learning provided by teachers today will be enough for the coming two weeks and will be reviewed when we know the situation for after the Easter holiday.

I will write to key worker parents as soon as the information regarding the school hub is available. Please remember, this provision is for families where BOTH parents are key workers (NHS/health, emergency services, delivery drivers, social workers, and education staff).

Families with children who access free school meals (not the universal FSMs for Reception, Year 1 and 2) will be informed later today of the provision we have put in place to continue to provide your children with their lunches.

On a different note, the children have been asking questions today about what is happening, why schools are closing, should they be worried about the coronavirus. My advice would be to answer your child's questions as honestly as you can. None of us have been through anything like this before so saying 'I don't know the answer to that' is ok.

The Whitefield staff would all like to thank you for all your support. What a challenging time it is for everyone.

We can do this.

Keep safe.

Team Whitefield.



Sarah Foster

Headteacher