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Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

### **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) - GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

This is an update on the current situation following the announcement made by the Government this evening.

There is no precedent, within our lifetimes, for the decisions that the Government is having to make. In this time of national emergency, we hope that you will feel able to support the decisions that the Government is taking in relation to schools, and our response. These extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures and for our community to pull together.

As a result of the announcement tonight, **we are closing to most pupils with immediate effect**. This is until further notice. The school will be **closed tomorrow to ALL PUPILS** and then **re-open on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January to key worker children and vulnerable children**.

If you previously were on our attendance registers during partial closures in the summer term and are still a key worker, you will remain on our **key worker list** and there is **no need to reapply**. If however you now require your child to attend school as you believe that you are a critical key worker you will need to contact [office@redwellprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@redwellprimary.co.uk) to apply for a place. (Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> for the definition of what is a critical key worker). We will continue to be flexible and key workers will be able to send their child to school for as little or as much of the week as is required due to shift patterns and working patterns.

The office will be in contact tomorrow with all previous people on our registers to ascertain what, if any, time you will **require your child to attend school**. It is crucial that you **return this information to us immediately** so that we can organise staff to supervise those groups of learners. It is likely that we will form year group bubbles to enable key worker and vulnerable children to learn in school. I will send you more information on this tomorrow.

**All other children will need to learn at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from tomorrow onwards.** Teachers will be in contact tomorrow to set out the expectations for home learning following our contingency plan, help to support your child learning at home can

be found on the school website, <https://www.redwellprimary.org.uk/index.php/parents/helping-your-child-at-home#>

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by email or text alert and via our social media platforms.

### **What we will continue doing while your child is at home.**

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn. However, the responsibility your child's education is now once again, handed over to you!

- Each child has a Purple Mash log in (in the front of their home reader books), you need to;
  - Open the Purple Mash webpage
  - Access the school portal
  - Use the child's log in details
- Teachers have been directed to plan for a minimum of 3hrs work per day (15hrs per week), for pupils to complete either on this platform or via activities sent through email. Teachers will be monitoring work completed by pupils. Year groups will be setting the work for the whole week on a Monday morning (5x maths, 5x English & 5x topic) and they should be completed by the Sunday (work will close at this point). The intention is for children to complete 3 pieces per day (1x maths, 1x English & 1x topic) but they can double up on certain days if needed.
- EYFS, Year 1 will provide a daily phonics session and story time session. Year 2 to deliver a daily phonics for children who are still accessing phonics.
- Children will be invited to join a weekly zoom session with their teacher
- Teachers will be marking work and monitoring completion of tasks set, this will be monitored by Mrs Head. We expect all children to access learning from home, if you are having difficulty getting your child engaged in home learning, contact the class teacher through the class email in the first instance. The pastoral team is also available for support if required, they can be contacted on [pastoral@redwellprimary.co.uk](mailto:pastoral@redwellprimary.co.uk).

If pupils complete all set work, they are free to investigate the other resources available to them on Purple Mash, there is a wealth of exciting activities on there. Children will have been used to using these platforms from before and should know how to access work set.

- Pupils can use other websites for additional learning as well, these will be provided by teachers

Previously we sent a quick questionnaire via Ping to check that children had access to a laptop or tablet at home, only 400 parents responded, therefore if you did not respond but do not have access, please let your child's class teacher know so that a paper pack can be organised for you to collect from the office for your child each week.

**With mental health being at the forefront of our minds, we would also encourage that you enable your children to stay mentally healthy. You can do this by;**

- Taking daily exercise
  - <https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>
  - <https://app.gonoodle.com/login>
- Going out for a mindfulness walk
- Starting a new hobby – learn to sew / be artistic / yoga
- Learning a new language
- Getting in the garden so watch clouds / have a minibeast hunt / do gardening
- Cooking – remember to read the recipe instructions!
- Playing board games or card games
- Complete jigsaw puzzles
- Meditating – lots of guided meditation for kids on UTube (they have been using these in school)
- Limiting screen time on devices
- Read a book together, even young children will enjoy you reading them a novel
- Keep a diary, encourage children to write neatly and use punctuation correctly when doing this
- Write a letter to a family member , or a local care home to let them know what is happening in your life, what you are learning about and what you have been doing

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience, as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

We understand that this is a difficult and uncertain time and know that you may be anxious or upset. We also appreciate that some Parents/Carers may not agree with the decisions that the Government is making. We 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.

We want to reassure you that at this challenging time, we will continue to update you and keep you informed. Please do speak to us if you have any questions and we will do our best to answer them with the information we have.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via email [office@redwellprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@redwellprimary.co.uk).

I would like to pay tribute to our incredible staff who have all shown a preference to attend work and keep the school open to all pupils, however that decision has now been taken out of our hands. Equally, I must state my pride in how well our staff have responded. Last term and the last few days have shown the strength of our school culture and community.

Thank you for your continued understanding, cooperation and support at this challenging time for all of us.

Yours sincerely



Anne Ansell  
Head teacher