

20th March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Academy Closure: Covid-19

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister and accordance with the advice given by the Education Secretary, we will be closed from today, Friday 20th March. This will enable us to take preventative steps to protect us against the threat of COVID-19.

However, we stress that the education and welfare of our children is paramount and will remain our top priority. In this spirit, we will continue to provide support to our children and families, working remotely and agree to remain partially open to children of Key Workers and those deemed most vulnerable. Nevertheless, the most recent scientific advice is clear, *if your children can stay safely at home, they should* and we will only remain open for those children *who absolutely need to attend*, ensuring as little movement in our community as possible - including the staff.

Thank you for completing the recent surveys. Families identified as meeting the full criteria will be contacted to agree their attendance to the Academy between the hours of 8:45am and 3:10pm. The children attending the Academy will need to wear school uniform and comfortable shoes for exercise. A hot lunch will be provided, however if you would prefer, please bring in a packed lunch. Please note that children will need to bring in their own healthy snack.

For the children learning at home, support will be provided through our online platform, DB Primary. Children and staff are familiar with this system, allowing for tasks and communication to be shared. A separate letter will outline this in more detail.

We have held assemblies with our children and a special assembly for our year six children to inform them of the Government's decision to cancel the SATs and we await further information on how the children will be assessed. We would like to praise our children for their determination and achievements and will continue to prepare them for their secondary education.

The Government has advised schools that there are plans for provision of Free School Meals through food vouchers. As soon as we are aware of the details we will notify our families.

Can we take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks to our parents and staff for their unstinting support. In these uncertain times, we send our very best wishes to all children and their families and sincerely hope they stay safe in these challenging circumstances. We urge you to adhere to Government guidance about the coronavirus to support the welfare of our community.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E. Nicholls
Principal