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Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

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

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means. I do not have a definitive list of who is classed as a key worker at the time of writing this letter so it would be really helpful if you could email the school office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk by Friday 20th March at the very latest if you believe you fall into this category and would require your child to attend school. We can then begin to plan for Monday once we have an idea of how many children we will be catering for. If there is a requirement for Breakfast Club or After School Club for these children it would also be useful if you could tell us this too. We'll be in touch again as soon as we have further information about organisation for Monday. For children with certain needs we may contact you directly either today or tomorrow.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

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'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by email and by notification on the school website.

What we'll 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. Today we will be sending home learning packs and a few additional reading books that can be used over the next couple of weeks until we reach what would have been the start of the Easter holiday. You will also receive an email with these and other useful resources linked to it. The resources will also be made available via a tab on the school website www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk For families that have children who are unwell with symptoms not associated with Coronavirus we would be happy to pass on a learning pack if you visit the school office. For those who are self-isolating the pack will be available via email or on the school website – we just won't be able to give you an exercise book or extra reading books – I hope you can use books/paper from home. We hope that these resources will be useful but reading to your child regularly, playing cards/board games, visiting educational websites are all very useful things to do too.

The website 'Twinkl' have an offer in place to help parents in the event of school closure. If you would like to take advantage of one of their codes, please visit www.twinkl.co.uk/offer and follow the instructions. The Twinkl team have put together a suggested home learning pack by age group.

The office email address and the school phone line will still be available so please contact us if you need to. We will not prescribe how you should organise your time when supporting continued learning at home but if you do need any support or guidance about this, do contact the school via telephone or email and we will get back to you. Remember children attend school for approximately 6 hours a day but that 1.5 hours of this time is spent outside playing or eating lunch.



- If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

What we won't be able to go ahead with/provide for the foreseeable future:

- Hot School Lunches for any children who remain in school, even those who are eligible for Pupil Premium Funding. It is highly possible that a packed lunch option may be available for those children in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding.
- All PTA Events
- Y2 SATs

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with 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.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via email or telephone.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours sincerely



Sue Barnes