



NORTON SUB HAMDON and WEST CHINNOCK C of E VC PRIMARY SCHOOL FEDERATION



Ms Liz Stiddard & Mr Jamie Caswell
Co-Headteachers

New Road, Norton Sub Hamdon
Stoke-Sub-Hamdon
TA14 6SF
Telephone: 01935 881815
Email: NortonSH@educ.somerset.gov.uk
www.nortonsubhamdonprimary.co.uk

Scotts Way, West Chinnock
Crewkerne
TA18 7PU
Telephone: 01935 881367
Email: westchinnock@educ.somerset.gov.uk
www.westchinnockprimary.co.uk

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

School closure to most pupils

We're writing to confirm with you that we have been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday 20th March until further notice. This is because although schools remain safe places for children, the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

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. The notion behind this is to isolate as many people as possible hence why those who will be allowed to make use of the childcare service will be limited. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by email.

This is a really uncertain time for all of us, especially children. Perhaps none more so than those pupils who are transitioning to secondary school in September. It is not the way that we would want to celebrate their time at primary school and we want to reassure Year 6 pupils and parents that we will ensure that we say a proper farewell to you when we can, even if this means inviting you back to do this next academic year. In addition, we will strive to find some way of enabling those children to enjoy each other's company again.

In the same vein, we also want to ensure that Mrs Prince has the send-off she deserves to start her retirement. We plan to invite her back when everything has settled down so that we can celebrate this with her.

Childcare facilities

As advised by the government, we are making sure that we stay open, as a childcare facility, for the limited number of children of families where parents provide a critical role to the nation's Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

The Government want us to keep these numbers as low as possible so as to reduce the chance of spreading the virus. We have today spoken to all parents we have identified as being a key worker however please contact us if you have not received a call and believe that you would qualify.

The service we provide will be at Norton-Sub-Hamdon School and is open for qualifying children from West Chinnock too. Children attending will not be expected to wear uniform and will be supported in completing home



learning style activities. It's a home from home not school as normal. Parents accessing this service should drop children at the main school entrance.

From Monday, the school offices will no longer be in operation. **The new contact number for parents is now 07385927007 between 08.30am and 4.00pm. In addition, you can still email the school at: NortonSH@educ.somerset.gov.uk**

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

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. We are putting work on the website in the class info section and handing out class work packs and resources. At the same time, we are working with IT Support to explore new ways of working such as Google Classrooms.

Free School Meals

If your child usually receives free school meals (not Universal 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. Next week, our meal provider is making packed lunches for these children and we will be setting up a pickup point in both villages for these to be collected, even if your child is not one of the children attending.

Safeguarding

If you have a safeguarding concern during this period of closure please contact Mr Caswell, Ms Stiddard or Mrs Parkinson via the school email or our dedicated safeguarding number which is 07379770269. This number is only for urgent safeguarding concerns.

Our contact with you

We have organised for our office staff to have access to vital office documentation and SIMs while the school is closed. This should enable us (as long as staff are well) to continue our contact with you through texting, and letters attached to the website. It is likely we will not be able to send letters through the email system, but we will send texts to inform you of where to find communication.

Other information

All school trips, breakfast club and sports clubs will be cancelled along with any invitational events the children may have received. KS1 and KS2 SATs, Year 1 phonics tests and the Year 4 times tables assessment have also been cancelled.

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 school closure will have an impact on you and your family, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

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

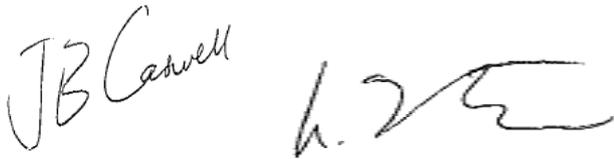


Closing the school does not come easily to any Headteacher but the time has come where health of our whole community is paramount at this time and we must follow what we have been governed to do. We sincerely hope that in these strange and unprecedented time will bring families and communities together and show how well we can pull together under such challenging circumstances.

Thank you again for your continued support. We plan to keep our weekly letter going and will be asking you to send in fantastic work from home, sharing good practice and keeping motivation up.

We wish you and your families the very best.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr J Caswell & Ms L Stiddard
Co-Headteachers

