

Benhurst Primary School

Benhurst Avenue
Elm Park
Hornchurch
Essex
RM12 4QS

Tel: 01708 450807
Email: office@benhurst.havering.sch.uk
Website: www.benhurst.havering.sch.uk
Twitter: @BenhurstPrimary



Head teacher: Mr D. Denchfield BA (Hons) NPQH

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus - School Closure

Following the new government announcements last night, I am writing to inform you that we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children at the end of tomorrow, Friday 20th March, until further notice.

As requested by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers and children with certain needs. We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but we do know they have outlined the following groups:

- Children of key workers, e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services
- Children with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs)
- Children with an allocated Social Worker

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

As you will have heard, this is a nationally enforced closure so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. Currently, the government has issued this direction until further notice. As and when we receive any new information during the enforced closure period, we will update you via email.

Home Learning

This is available via the school website. Given yesterday's news, we will provide more learning opportunities over the coming week. The children at school today will receive a paper copy of the learning on the school closure learning pack currently on the website.

There are also many excellent resources available through a teaching resources website called Twinkl.

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/how-to-utilise-twinkl-during-the-coronavirus-shutdown-a-guide-for-schools>

Code - UKTWINKLHELPS

Free School Meals

If your child usually receives free school meals we will be in touch with more information once we have more guidance on this.



Isolation Advice

This is an incredibly difficult, emotional and unprecedented time and so spending quality time together as a family will be essential. Please reassure your children as best you can and where possible shield them from the frightening details of the current global situation. Honesty at an age-appropriate level is always my suggested approach. I have been talking to the children about doing "practical" things so we "do our bit for our country", like extra handwashing and extra kindness.

I advise that you set up a daily routine because children (and adults) find routine comforting and safe. Sit down as a family with a piece of paper and draw up a timetable for the day which includes home learning time, family time, exercise, time in the garden and free time. Display it on the fridge or somewhere central and use this to structure what may be a long time at home.

Over the coming weeks, please share with us any work or activities you do via Twitter (@benhurstprimary) - if you do not have a twitter account, please email me, I will be happy to post pictures and messages on your behalf.

I only have the same information as you do currently, and I really appreciate your continued patience and support as we, as a nation, deal with this crisis. It is to be expected that we are feeling worried and even upset, so please be mindful that your children will feel this too.

I will continue to update you as and when I know more. If you have any specific questions or concerns, please contact the school office and we will endeavour to help.

Remember, if you or your children feel unwell or develop any symptoms, **do not leave the house but instead dial 111 and await advice.**

Thank you for your continued support, take care and please email me if I can help in any way.
ddenchfield@benhurst.havering.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Denchfield
Headteacher