

Great Wood Primary School



Vicarage Road, Upper Tean, Staffordshire, ST10 4LE. Tel: 01538 702355 option 4. E-mail: office@greatwood.staffs.sch.uk

Friday March 20th, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the recent Government announcement and current situation regarding Coronavirus, it is with great, great sadness that today we are closing to many children and families, both here and across our Trust.

We have endeavoured to establish how many children will require on-site education during the approaching weeks, and now have approximate numbers. If you have not shared this information with us, or during the approaching weeks your circumstances change, please let us know as soon as possible through email, or by phoning us on the school number.

From Monday, schooling will be provided at our sister school, Bishop Rawle C.E. (A) Primary in Royal Walk, Cheadle ST10 1QA. The telephone number is 01538 702355 (option 5). School hours for all children will be 8.45am-3.25pm. Although this is a different site, we believe that this will help us to maintain an offer of schooling to the children and due to the number of Trust staff, we are in a stronger position to cover any potential staff absences and remain open for our key workers.

On Monday, children will not be required to wear school uniform, but clothing should be sensible, appropriate for school, and ready for active learning. Children should bring PE/outdoor games kit with them. Rest assured, all class teachers will be on site (health permitting) on Monday, to help the children to settle. Teaching from then onwards will be provided by different members of the teaching and learning teams from across the Trust. We appreciate the change this causes, and it is with a heavy heart that this is taking place, however, during a period of national emergency, we are having to act in a different manner. We are determined to support our essential key workers and help children to maintain an education. Please accept our sincerest apologies for any inconvenience which this may cause, and we hope that you can appreciate its need.

As a staff team, we are dedicated to - and determined to - provide an education for those who need us most and have taken (and will continue to take) many roles to keep our Trust schools operational for the children. As you know, we have sent Home Learning Resources to you all to provide learning opportunities, activities, tasks...and fun for the children whilst they continue to learn at home. New resources will be made available to allow children to continue their learning journey, even though it will be a little different than usual.

We all appreciate that none of us have ever experienced this situation and it is changing at a daily rate, so we thank you for your support and understanding as we continue to move forwards and discover the different ways in which we can support one another as both a local and global community.



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During this period, school lunches will not strictly follow the published menu due to supply issues and a changed service. Children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, and those in Key Stage 2 who are eligible for Free School Meals, will continue to receive a meal of some kind during this time. Other children will be able to purchase meals in the same manner, or bring sandwiches etc. Food intolerances will, of course, be followed by kitchen staff. On Monday, please can children bring their own snack for breaktime and their usual bottle of water. As usual, please telephone the school to advise of any changes to people collecting your child.

To maintain our communication with your good selves, please continue to visit the school website, where all newsletters and letters will be posted in the 'NEWS' section. We will also communicate with you through email, therefore, please ensure that we have the most up-to-date and relevant email address. Details regarding new learning, work tasks and marking of work will also be shared with you through email. The manner in which work will be provided etc will continue to evolve depending upon the period of closure, so we kindly request that you bear with us a little as we continue to establish and develop this working practice. We thank you for maintaining positive communications and working with us to continue to provide education during this unprecedented time.

We hope that you are able to enjoy Mother's Day in some form this weekend.

Please, please look after yourselves, your loved ones and each other. The whole staff and TMPF team send you our love and prayers during this difficult period. Take care and we look forward to coming together as a whole-school family again in the not-too-distant future.

The Great Wood team