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18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Covid 19/Coronavirus Evening Update - 18/03/2020**

Thank you for all your support over the last few weeks. As ever we are trying to provide as much information as possible, as soon as we get it.

We heard this evening from the Prime Minister that **schools are to close for the foreseeable future from this Friday** but that they would remain open in some form for vulnerable children and those whose parents are key workers. We don't at present have guidance on who these two groups are yet. We will share it as soon as we do.

We also heard that the summer exams will not go ahead, but we don't yet have clarity on what the next steps are.

This is a fast evolving situation and whilst the school does have plans in place for distance learning involving google classrooms and the primary learning site ([here](#)), we need some time to replan based on this information.

For tomorrow and Friday, we felt it was best to keep as much of the school open as we can to provide support to families and children. However, if as a parent you feel it is best to withdraw your child that is of course your decision and there will be no attendance penalty.

Please also be mindful of the self-isolation guidance previously published. If you or anyone in your household has a new, repetitive cough or a temperature of 37.8 and above, you should all self-isolate for 14 days (further guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>)

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

The school will remain in a partial closure due to our staffing levels. School will be closed tomorrow for the following year groups:

Year 12

Year 13

Year 9

Year 8

Year 10 and 11 will go home at 1:50pm (after lunch)

Reception will be open again tomorrow as we have the necessary paediatric first aid cover.

### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

We will communicate tomorrow which year groups we can open to on Friday (staff numbers remain in flux) but **we will be dismissing all students on site after lunch.** This is 1:30pm for all children.

### **Lunch**

As today, if families who are eligible for free school meals and are not self-isolating want to pick up a packed lunch they are free to do so (between 12:00pm and 12:30pm). If you are self-isolating and need lunch, we will try and see if we can support delivery (but may not be able to). Please contact Ms Barthram - [mbarthram@school21.org.uk](mailto:mbarthram@school21.org.uk) - if this is the case.

**Cont/nd Overleaf .....**

**Next steps**

This is, of course, a worrying time but it has been inspirational to see so many of our community offering to help others. Thank you to parents who have suggested great ideas. I don't know what the next few months will hold. But I do know that we will get through this together as one community, joined in a common purpose to support each other and make a difference to the world. When we do our planning for how we keep in touch in this period we will have that mission in the forefront of our minds.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'O de Botton', written in a cursive style.

O de Botton  
**Headteacher**