

20 March 2020

Dear Parents

You will be aware that school is closed for an indefinite period from the end of today for the vast majority of students. This action has been taken by the government to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus. I am writing to provide some important information to support parents during this period of school closure.

First and foremost, it is important to reinforce the purpose of the action that the government has taken:

“If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.”

You will have been contacted by us in recent days to confirm a place for your child in school from next week if they are eligible. **In all other cases, children should be kept at home.**

Children attending school

For the small number of children who are eligible to continue attending school, the timings of the day and week remain exactly the same, with the exception that school will finish at 3pm on a Monday and Tuesday. Please ensure that your child arrives to school on time. The canteen will remain open for students to access at lunch and break time, although menu choices will be restricted.

A rota of staff will be put in place to supervise students and you will appreciate that it will not be possible for formal lessons to be delivered – students will undertake a range of alternative activities throughout the day. For this reason, students are not required to attend school in uniform and can wear appropriate, casual clothing.

We ask for your support more than ever in ensuring that your child meets our expectations regarding behaviour and cooperation with staff at these difficult times.

Supporting your child’s learning at home

We have put in place a number of strategies to support the vast majority of our students who will be able to continue their learning at home. These include a wide range of online resources that can be accessed from our website – see link below:

<https://www.birkenheadparkschool.com/curriculum/online-resources>

Students have also been provided with text books and other paper-based materials for households where internet access is not available.

The contact details of key curriculum staff are on the school’s website so that students and parents can request support or additional resources should this be required. Please do not hesitate to make contact during core school hours if this is the case. Contact details are available here:

<https://www.birkenheadparkschool.com/key-contacts>

Please encourage your child to continue to learn from home. Encouraging good routines and self-discipline will be important in ensuring that students retain the good habits of learning that have been established and will minimise any lost learning during this period of school closure.

Free School Meals

Those children who are eligible for Free School Meals and will still be attending school can access their meal from the canteen as normal. For all other children eligible for Free School Meals, we have put in place alternative arrangements. I am pleased to share that every child who is eligible for Free School Meals and who will not be attending school from next week will receive a £3.00 Tesco meal-deal voucher for each day of absence. Ten days' worth of vouchers will be sent home in the post today. Further vouchers will be issued at the start of next half term.

Safeguarding and Pastoral Support

Arrangements have been put in place to support our most vulnerable children throughout the period of school closure. Key pastoral staff will continue to support families by phone and will be available should you have any queries or concerns. Contact details are on our website and can be found here:

<https://www.birkenheadparkschool.com/key-contacts>

Contacting School

Should you have any general questions or need to contact school during this period of closure, please telephone 0151 652 1574 during core school hours in term time and leave a voicemail if your call is not answered. You can also contact the school on offices@birkenheadparkschool.com.

Communication

As you are aware, this period of school closure is indefinite. We simply do not know how long we may be asked to operate these new arrangements. We will keep you informed of any updates in the following ways:

School website: www.birkenheadparkschool.com

Text message service – please let us know if your contact details have changed

Social media: **Twitter** (BPSWirral), **Facebook** (thebirkenheadparkschool)

Guidance on Corona virus

The latest guidance from the government on the corona virus can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

I know that you will do all you can to follow this advice and guidance, keeping you and your families as safe as possible during these difficult times.

I would like to thank you for the support that you have shown to the staff at school, especially in recent times. We remain committed to providing support to you and your children throughout this period of closure.

With very best wishes.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Johnson
Headteacher