

Our Ref: HeadteacherSA: parental/BRE/JOD
Date: 18th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Corona Virus update

Thank you for continuing to support us here at Ruskin as we try to navigate difficult circumstances in relation to COVID-19.

1. Partial closure plans from Wednesday 18th March

As you will be aware, a sudden drop in staffing levels has meant that today, Wednesday 18th March, we have had to ask Year 8 students to remain off school. The plan for the rest of this week would be to operate a rolling programme as follows:

Wednesday 18th March – Year 8 off site

Thursday 19th March – Year 7/8/10/11 in school and Year 9 off site

Friday 20th March – Year 7/8/9/11 in school and Year 10 off site

As you will gather, I am trying to keep the youngest children in school to reduce childcare need for parents and keep Year 11 in school due to forthcoming examinations. I realise that none of this is ideal, but it is in an effort to try and keep most children in most of the time with our current staffing levels.

Obviously, if staffing levels continue to drop we would have to revisit this plan and so, for that, I apologise in advance.

• **Work for partial closure from Wednesday 18th March**

Work will be set according to the normal school day via Classcharts.

Any student without internet access will be given paper work the day before if they are due to be the result of a partial closure. We know who these students are. Staff will be available to respond via email within working hours.

• **Food for students entitled to a free meal from Wednesday 18th March**

- For Year 8 today, we have group text all parent/carers entitled to a Free School Meal to notify them that grab bags are ready for collection **or** that we will deliver them if necessary as a one off today due to the short notice for parent/carers. This means that no child has been left without a meal option.
- For Year 9 tomorrow, we will have grab bags available today and all Year 9 students entitled to a meal will be offered a grab bag. I am not going to force students to take them but they will be made up ready and they will get the chance to collect one before the close of school.
- For Year 10 on Friday, the above will apply with grab bags being available tomorrow before the end of the day.

2. Potential full closure

We have plans in place **should there be a full closure.**

- **Work in the event of a full closure**

Work is pending to be uploaded to the system for children to access. Where students have said that they have no access, we have paper packs ready. In view of the uncertainty, the paper packs will be given to those students today. They should **not** start this work until any full closure happens and they should not stay off instead of coming in. The idea of the work pack is to support them in the event of a full closure.

In addition, in the event of a full closure, staff would be working remotely from 8.40am until 3.00pm daily. As such, students would be able to email staff for support. Basically, we would do all we can to offer a remote service. Obviously, this is all speculation currently but I need to be prepared.

- **Meals in the event of a full closure for Free School Meals students**

If there is a full closure, we have Morrisons vouchers ready to cover us for one week in the first instance. These are in envelopes and ready to be posted.

In the event of a full closure, we would send a £10 voucher per child to every relevant parent/carer to cover a week of sandwiches/lunch. Clearly, we will just have to manage the timing of this as best we can. Bear with us and we will monitor this situation and act accordingly.

3. General communication

Group text will be used as regularly as necessary now to communicate with parents. The school website will also be used. Social media will be less regularly used as I want to keep messages clear and as short as possible to relieve any student anxiety.

4. Parents who are frontline emergency services (doctors, nurses, healthcare assistants, emergency services etc). I have sent a group text asking any parent in the above category to inform me.

The reason for this is to ensure that, for those children, we try to cater for them so that they **do not** have to be part of any partial closure. This then enables their parent/carer to work without child care concerns. Obviously, a full closure would be different.

Thank you for your support. I realise I am sending a lot of updates but I feel it is better to be clear.

Yours sincerely



E S Brett
Headteacher

Here are the latest guidelines:

- Staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal.
- If staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they will be sent home. We ask you collect as soon as you possibly can.

If you are unsure what you or your family should do then please contact the NHS on 111. No one at school is medically trained to be able to give advice.