



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

Including Berryfields Primary

COLLABORATING *for* EXCELLENCE

PARENT GUIDE TO SCHOOL CLOSURE & REMOTE LEARNING

BULLETIN No. 2

19 March 2020

As you may be aware, the government has taken the decision to close all schools in England from Friday 20th March.

We have been issued this statement: *'To provide parents, student and staff with the certainty they need we are announcing that schools, colleges and early years settings will be closed to everyone except children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday, as part of the country's ongoing response to coronavirus.'*

This means that for the majority of AVA students, their last day will be today and we will close at 3:00pm.

The government has also issued further detail regarding to what extent schools should stay open.

Who will still be able to come to school?

The announcement has stated that these children will be, *'children of key workers and vulnerable children'* Examples of these workers include NHS staff, police and social workers who need to be able to go to work. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans. The full list can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We have sent a text and email to all parents to notify us if they are one of these 'key workers' as outlined by the government. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision.

Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care.

We cannot guarantee we will be able to supervise these identified children at school indefinitely and we have been asked to use our discretion about how long we maintain this provision.

These children will be expected to come to school from 8:30-3:00pm every day. We cannot accommodate students who will only come for part of the week or parts of days.

Should one of these children develop symptoms, we will follow the normal procedures, contact you and send them home.

Will the school still close for everyone at Easter?

No. We have been advised to stay open for the children listed above.

What will these children do at school during this time?

We are in the process of planning what will take place on a day to day basis. It will be an interim curriculum which will cover the core curriculum that they currently receive. The number of students will be relatively few and they will be from all year groups from Reception to Year 10.

What about learning from home?

As we mentioned in our previous bulletin, classwork will be set for them during the school closure and that children will be expected to complete work on every school day until the school reopens.

- **Secondary Phase:** school work will be set daily on Show My Homework. Students will receive an activity for every lesson they have each day. This may involve activities such as reading, watching a video followed by a note taking activity and a quiz. These will be updated every day to reflect a students' typical day.
- **Primary Phase:** a daily email will be sent with details of work to be completed at home. Workbooks and a brief explanatory letter have been sent home for a small number of students who we know do not have good internet access so that they are able to complete work daily from these books.
- Regular communication will be take place via parent mail and SMS with reminders to direct children to SMHW/Parent Mail.
- There will be regular updates on the homepage of the school website with links to all the online platforms we use to set homework and revision.
- This week, all students have been given stickers with all their log in details for Office 365, GCSE Pod and Show My Homework.

What about Free School Meals?

Children who receive free school meals will be able to pick up a packed lunch from the student reception at school at 12:30PM. We will offer this service to all students who receive Free School Meals from Monday 23rd March until Friday 27th March in the first instance. This is the guidance we have received from the Department for Education. We will then review this service when we have received further guidance from them. They have also stated, *"We are currently developing a national approach to providing support through supermarket and shop vouchers. We will provide further details shortly."*

When this guidance is updated, we will share this with you.

If you do not intend to visit the school to collect your Free School Meal at 12:30, please notify the school on enquiries@theacademy.me.

What is happening with Exams?

The Secretary for education has stated that the exams, including SATs, have been 'cancelled'. However, on Friday we are expecting an announcement regarding what interim measures will be put in place to ensure that students estimated grades are recorded and submitted. It *may* be that students are asked to complete work which will then be submitted.

We are asking that all students in Years 11-13 ensure that they complete all coursework as soon as possible to ensure that teachers have an evidence base from which to estimate final grades.

What if my child has money on his/her Parent Pay account?

Please see the guidance sent to us from Parent Pay regarding refunds:

Dear Parents/Carers

Please be assured that unspent school meal balances can be returned to your Parent Pay account as part of our school closure process.

We are currently working on our plans to support children of Key Workers and therefore politely request that parents/carers do not send individual requests for refunds. School staff will be working next week to communicate our plans and to ensure refunds can be handled promptly where this is necessary.

Thank you for your cooperation

How will we be told if the school re-opens?

Parents/carers will be notified **by the school** via:-

- *Email*
- *Text*
- *Announcements on website*