

School Street,
Honeybourne,
Worcestershire,
WR11 7PJ



Headteacher: Mrs Elaine D Huntington, B.Ed., MA, NPQH

Dear Parents,
19th March 2020

Exceptional School Closure

It is with great sadness that I find myself writing in this manner and at the vast changes we now need to make to our education service and the way we are living. To support all measures the government is putting in place to combat the Coronavirus pandemic, we have all got to make tough decisions and some of these will inevitably end in making sacrifices to our usual way of life.

In line with our government's directive yesterday, from Monday 23rd March, our school and nursery will be CLOSED until further notice. We are, however, making provision to care for children of parents who are key workers, in order to keep the country running and providing essential services. This provision will be very different to school, by the nature of the situation and the need to keep a social distance, and will be managed by staff on a rota basis to protect all concerned. This provision will still be subject to us having enough staff to run safely. We anticipate being able to provide a (paid for)packed lunch service for children in school if required and are working on how to provide for our children entitled to a free school meal, who may not be in school. Nursery children will need to bring a packed lunch.

At present, we are hoping to be able to offer school care for children, as listed above, during the Easter break, if there is a need. We will confirm this once we know the number of children we are catering for. This relies on staff good-will and availability to do this. At the moment, we have sufficient staff and will keep you up to date if this changes.

Naturally, school trips for the foreseeable future have been cancelled. Any monies paid by parents towards these will be refunded in due course, however, we cannot say exactly when this will be. We are also working with the caterers on refunds for meals not taken. Payments made on-line will be refunded on-line but cash payments are going to take longer. Please bear with us on this.

Unfortunately, we have not yet received further guidance from the government on which key worker roles and vulnerable children, qualify for provision at school. The attached reply slip should be completed by any parent who genuinely has NO ALTERNATIVE way of caring for their child as if they work in a key worker role, or their child is vulnerable. Provision will be made only for the days a parent has to work. We will offer a provision, based on the information received and it will be dealt with on a case by case basis. In consultation with the chair of governors and senior staff in school, once further clarification on roles is received, I will make a decision on who to admit from Monday and trust that parents will support my decision. I know I will not be able to please everyone, but hope you will all

☎Tel: 01386 830 462 📠Fax: 01386 830462 📧email: office@honeybourne.worcs.sch.uk

🌐 www.honeybourneschoolacademy.co.uk

Honeybourne Primary Academy is a mixed community school for 4-11 year old pupils and Nursery for 2-4 year olds.
Trading name for invoices: Honeybourne First School Academy



understand that I have a difficult job to do under conditions we have never seen before. I will always do what I feel is right; you will always have my best efforts.

Today and Friday, we will be sending home, learning packs to all children who are in school and will make work available to parents who are able to come up to collect it throughout the day today and Friday. We have tried hard to make suggestions for learning activities that both educate and keep children happy and occupied, not all needing a printed sheet to work on. As I am sure you can appreciate, we cannot send out vast packs of printed material, we simply do not have the paper supplies in school at present. Please check the school website regularly for additional suggestions about learning activities. The school will be open to email and phone contact to offer help and guidance if parents are finding it difficult. Please use this service and be patient if the phone lines are engaged; we will respond as soon as we can.

Please therefore, would any parent wishing to apply for a place in school during the closure, due to your work being a key role on the list below, complete the attached form and state why you cannot make any other arrangements, and send it BY EMAIL to office@honeybourne.worcs.sch.uk In this way, we are limiting contact, as advised, and can deal with your response much sooner. We will then email parents to make what offer we can for provision for your children. If you are not already on our email group, please also email school so we can contact you quickly. Even if on the list, parents may wish to opt out of a school place and keep children at home. N.B. BOTH parents need to be on the key worker list to qualify for an exceptional school place.

The likely Key Worker roles eligible for a school place may be:

- NHS staff, Prison officers, Police, School staff, Food delivery drivers, Highway traffic officers, Fire Fighters, care workers (for elderly or vulnerable people) THIS IS JUST A GUESTIMATE! This will be confirmed as soon as the government has issued their list.

Vulnerable pupils who are eligible for a school place:

- Children with an EHCP
- Children with a social worker We estimate this to be less than 10% of our school population.

Whilst I would love to be able to keep school open for business as usual, this is really not possible. We need to protect each other, our loved ones and our children. In order to help delay the spread of this horrid virus, these measures are now in place and must be adhered to.

I am grateful for all the support I have had from many parents and the kind comments regarding how we are dealing with this situation. For what it is worth, I feel our children are dealing with this well and we will continue to send your resources to use at home to support good mental health for the whole family, throughout this crisis.

During this difficult and unknown situation, stay safe, be sensible and remember, life goes on...we have to make the best of this and work together on solutions that will help us achieve the best outcomes all round.

Kind regards,

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Elaine Huntington
HEADTEACHER

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