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Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid19 – School Closure Update

Please read this letter in its entirety and regard its information as very important.

As you already know, we have been instructed to close the school at 3:15 on Friday 20th March 2020 and remain closed until told otherwise. There is currently no timescale for this. We sympathise with you all and fully understand that this will cause stress and inconvenience for many of you.

Vulnerable Children and Children of Key Workers

Schools are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are **vulnerable** and children whose parents are **critical** to the Covid-19 response and **cannot** be safely cared for at home.

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.

Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.

Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

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:

Health and Social Care
Education and Childcare
Key Public Services
Local and National Government

Food and other necessary goods
Public Safety and National Security
Transport
Utilities, Communication and Financial Services

If workers think they fall within the **critical** categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their **business continuity arrangements**, their specific role is **necessary** for the continuation of this **essential** public service.

Free School Meals

The school will be providing for our FSM children. These will be in the form of packed lunches and will be available to collect from the Black Bull Road entrance of school between 12:00 midday and 1:30 pm. Please respect suitable social distancing during collection. If you qualify for FSM we will send a text to you. If you do not receive a text but believe that you are eligible (due to financial reasons) please contact the school.



Delivering the National School Breakfast Programme



Working from Home

In addition to the work packs, please find some useful information on our website or Facebook page (added this morning) that contain some excellent websites and Apps for children to access.

Exams

All summer exams have been cancelled, including Year 2 and 6 SATS, Year 1 Phonics Screening and Year 4 x Tables tests. Should we receive any additional information we will pass it on to you when it is appropriate to do so.

A few things to note:

The aim of these school closures is to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This means that we are looking to have as few children and as few staff as possible at school.

During this time, the emphasis will be on 'care' rather than 'education'. School will not be teaching the national curriculum and there are no guarantees of which staff will attend.

The last thing the school wants to do is turn children away but this is a unique situation and we will all be safer separated into our own homes. The wellbeing of the children, staff and wider community is our main priority. Please avoid putting the school in any difficult situations by sending your child in when it is not vital to do so.

Contact

Please either phone us (01303 252265) or email office@mundella.kent.sch.uk if you feel that you meet the criteria for key worker or you have a vulnerable child and we have not yet contacted you about attending school. Please also use this number if you have any safeguarding concerns. A DSL will call you back.

Yours faithfully,



Mr F E Westmorland
Headteacher