



Haygrove School

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Executive Headteacher/CEO – Mrs K Canham, BA (Hons), MA
Headteacher – Mr A Reid, BSc (Hons), MA



19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced that schools across England will close at the end of the day on Friday 20 March 2020 until further notice, but that children of 'key workers' and certain vulnerable children are able to continue to attend the school site. This measure is intended to support those who work within the key public services to continue to assist the most vulnerable members of the public during this unprecedented time.

The purpose of this letter is to ensure you have all the information necessary to support your family at home and to contact us if you need to.

Identifying Key Workers

Within school we hold very little information about the roles our parents play in this situation. If you heard the Prime Minister's announcement you will have heard how important it is that ONLY these children remain in school. We must also remember that many of our staff have children who will need their parent at home, reducing further our capacity to have large numbers of students in school.

In order for us to identify the students that are able to stay in school for child care for key workers I ask you to email key@haygrove.somerset.sch.uk stating child's name, registration group, parents name and occupation i.e. nurse, police etc. This will enable the school office number to remain free. We will then contact all those people who have sent an email through. If you are uncertain if you meet this criteria please check Government websites or BBC news website for further information.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning will be maintained as far as possible via online resources, with the expectation that teaching staff will provide the necessary resources for students to continue with their learning at home. The main platform for continuing teaching and learning will be ShowMyHomework (SMHW), accessible at <https://www.haygroveschool.co.uk/curriculum/show-my-homework.htm> and via the SMHW app for mobile devices. This link will take you to the SMHW guide and give details of what you need to do if you are experiencing difficulties logging in. Children should be familiar with this facility as it is commonly used for setting homework. Please ensure that your child has the notification settings turned on within their SMHW account, as this will alert them to new resources uploaded by their class teacher for each subject. Teachers will assess understanding through self-marking assessments. Staff will be available to answer questions from students via SMHW. We would encourage children to continue to follow their timetables whilst at home during the school closure.

If your son/daughter does not currently have access to SMHW, please email support@haygrove.somerset.sch.uk. Links to other social media accounts such as the school's YouTube, Facebook and Twitter accounts along with Google Drive and links to other learning websites may be posted within SMHW.

Supporting our potentially most vulnerable families

We are currently exploring options to ensure children who have a Free School Meal entitlement receive provision during the school closure. We will communicate separately with specific families as soon as we have contingency plans confirmed.



Families in our school who are supported by external agencies or with whom we have worked very closely due to a variety of vulnerabilities will be contacted by school staff or our PFSA on a regular basis throughout the period of closure and may be offered visits if it is appropriate.

Safeguarding

If you have a safeguarding concern during this period of closure please would you contact Mr Greg Walters, Assistant Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead at GWalters@educ.somerset.gov.uk.

Exams

We have been told today that we can expect changes to be taking place to GCSE examinations – we do not have the full detail of this yet, other than Mr Johnson stating “Exams will not take place as planned but we want to ensure children get the qualifications that they need and deserve.”

Exam boards and teaching Unions are working closely with Government to establish exactly how this will look. We ask that you keep yourselves informed through the official exam board websites and we will also keep you as up to date as we possibly can. We absolutely appreciate what an incredibly difficult and anxious time this is for year 11 and their families and we will do everything within our power to support you with the right information as it is released to us.

Further contact

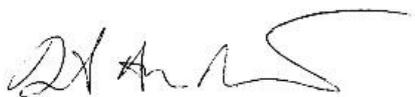
We have organised for key members of staff to have access to vital office documentation and Arbor (our Management Information System) while the school is closed. This should enable us (as long as staff are well) to continue our contact with you through email. Communications will also be posted via the school’s website and social media accounts.

If you have any major concerns that do not relate to your child’s work (which should be directed to teachers) or safeguarding, please use the office@haygrove.somerset.sch.uk.

We are receiving updates from the Department of Education as they are made public. Please be assured that we are working as efficiently as possible to ensure that you receive information as soon as it becomes available. We appreciate your patience and understanding at this unprecedented time.

Finally, I wish you and your families the very best. Closing the school does not come easily to any Headteacher but the health of our whole community is paramount at this time and we must follow what we have been told to do.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Reid

Headteacher