



19<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils**

I would like to start by thanking everyone for your fantastic support during this incredibly difficult period.

As you will be aware, following our email last night, **we have been instructed to close the school to most children this Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open, during term time, from 23<sup>rd</sup> March for the children of key workers (NHS staff, police, supermarket delivery drivers, early years workers, teachers or social workers) and vulnerable children (ones with a social worker or an existing Educational Health Care Plan). If we are unable, or become unable, to provide this facility ourselves, the local authority will work with the DfE's regional teams to ensure an alternative option is available.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on exactly what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if:

**You will require childcare to continue working in one of these key roles fighting the virus, as there is no one else in the household who can do this.**

**Please ring school on 01525 402735 or email: [office@firslower.org](mailto:office@firslower.org) if possible today and no later than 9am tomorrow.** We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure of the definitive list from the Government

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

Where it is at all possible, and where it does not stop parents working on the 'front line', we strongly believe that being at home with their parents at this time of such uncertainty and heightened anxiety is by far the best thing.

Please note that this is a national closure, as you may have heard in the news, so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open to all children as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by keeping the Coronavirus Tab (on the Parent Page of our website) updated and by contacting you via email/text.

**What can continue while your child is at home?**

We will be sending out learning packs via email today to all children. These packs will provide learning activities for this week and next week.

Adam J.G Campbell (Headteacher)

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If you do not have access to a printer and will need a paper based version please phone or email the school **by today if possible and no later than 9am tomorrow** to request one.

We will be working next week on a 'home learning' programme and we will inform you about this via email and on our website.

### **What about Saplings?**

Saplings, like the rest of the school, will only be open from Monday 23rd for 'vulnerable children' and children of key workers, like the rest of the school.

### **What about Kids' Club?**

Kid's Club, like Saplings, will be open for any 'vulnerable children' and children of key workers, like the rest of the school. If your child does not normally attend Kids' Club and you are in one of these categories, you will be entitled to a place in Kids' Club, if you wish to take it up, during the duration of these special arrangements. Kids' Club charges will remain the same and apply as normal.

### **What we won't be able to go ahead with?**

This does mean that for the foreseeable future, we will be unable to go ahead with any planned trips or visits.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with us as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an enormous emotional and practical impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

### **Keeping in touch**

If you want to get in touch, please don't hesitate to do so via our [office@firslower.org](mailto:office@firslower.org) email address.

Please also remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, the many offers of help and good wishes we have received in the last few days has really touched us and we are very grateful for them. We will be in touch with more information when we can.

This is such a hard and uncertain time for us all and I want you to know, on behalf of all of us at The Firs, that we are thinking of all of you and hoping that you and your loved ones stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

Adam J G Campbell  
Headteacher