



TRANSFORM TRUST
'Together we Achieve'



Bulwell St Mary's Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

So, despite everything we've tried to put in place, we have reached the point of closure. The Education Minister has directed all schools in England to close from Friday.

School will be closed to children for an indefinite period from the end of the school day on Friday. This is until further notice.

- **Schools are still felt to be very safe places** – amongst the safest – but the plan is to create a break in the cycle of infection so that the NHS can cope with the rate of infection. **We would love to see children who are not yet self-isolating up until 3.15pm on Friday!**
- **Some schools may be asked to partially open for identified children of key workers.** We will have to wait for further details on this; it seems to include children of NHS workers and other services such as social care, but not school staff! Similarly, it would seem that children with an Educational and Health Care Plan will be expected to have a school open to them. We await further guidance on this, and a plan will follow in due course.
- **Exams in May and June will not happen and we presume that this will include statutory tests at the end of Key Stage 2 (SATs).** Again, we await clearer guidance.
- **We will continue to be in school ourselves for as long as we can.** We will continue to use class dojo and update our website. The phones will be answered for as long as someone is here. We will monitor emails.
- **Staff will not be on holiday.** All have been given large amounts of work to do from home. All will be assumed to be 'on duty', doing what they can from home unless they report in ill. Many of us will, as previously said, be here if we can be.
- **We will continue to keep in contact with you,** mostly via text message, class dojo and the website. Please look out for any updates.
- **We will update families entitled to income-related Free School Meals** about any provision when we know more.
- **Safeguarding and Child Protection remain a priority.** If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child, email us on safeguarding@bsm.nottingham.sch.uk.
- **Please pass on our best wishes,** love and care to your children and the rest of your family; maybe share these messages too...
 - While we know that they will instinctively celebrate school closure, they should remember that this is happening because massive numbers of people are ill or at risk of being ill. We 'get' the child's view of this as a 'bonus holiday', but it is not. It will be a challenge. They are blessed by access to a great, free education that many in the world (and many in this country for that matter) would envy. They also, let it be said, come to a fabulous school, somewhere rather special. We think so anyway!
- **Not all education has to happen in school.** Now might be a good time for children (and adults too, perhaps) to: learn a language; find out about your family tree/history; learn a musical instrument; discover chess; to garden; do DIY; find out how the vacuum cleaner works and how to use it, the best way to load a dish-washer etc and catch up on classic books and films, whatever...

- **The world will not stand still – trying to do some work, learn new things and retain what has already been taught remain vital.** Children will be disadvantaged on their return if they have not at least tried. We will pick up where we left off and then move on. Children in say, Year 3, will still need to know Year 3 things if they are to manage Year 4. Year 6 will still need to be ready for Secondary school. This year will not be repeated and each year builds on the last. Staff will send home details of work that can be completed at home.

We all appreciate this is a difficult time - thanks again for your continued support.

More information to follow when it becomes available.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Godfrey
Headteacher