



## GUSTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

### COVID -19 UPDATE

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the Prime Minister's press conference last night announcing school closures from 3pm 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, I am writing to update you with the school's response to this unprecedented step.

#### **Remote learning**

As many of you will be aware, staff have been very proactive in preparing work for pupils in the event of a school closure, so I am hoping much of the following information will not be new to you. Teachers will be providing daily learning activities via the website and there is an expectation that these are completed. However this is a fantastic opportunity to develop children's wider skill sets and interests too such as cooking, gardening and perhaps even developing their awareness of chores! Be creative! If you do not have access to the internet for any reason, please let us know.

#### **Key workers**

Whilst the headlines of 'School Closures' dominate the media at the moment, it is clear that, where possible schools will have a role to play in supporting those 'Key Workers' that have a vital role in responding to this national emergency. At the time of writing, no definitive list of roles categorised by the Government as 'Key' has been provided. We are hopeful that this will be shared as part of the PM's briefing this evening. If you fall into this category please can you complete the attached form and email the school office at [admin@guston.kent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@guston.kent.sch.uk) by 12pm 20<sup>th</sup> March, so we can plan for effective provision for those that need it.

We intend to provide skeleton staffing on a rota basis during this time, in line with the advice to minimise contact and work from home where possible. Therefore we will not be running a normal timetable. Children will be grouped in mixed ages and supervised by a range of a school staff. Children will be expected to complete the online learning made available to them; the Secretary of State has been clear that the role of the school has now changed, with the emphasis on care.

#### **Free School Meals**

Currently, if your child is entitled to Free School Meals (not universal infant school meals for KS1 children) we have been notified by Whole School Meals that a daily meal will be provided which can be collected from the school. Details on this will be shared when we know more.

#### **Isolation and Social Distancing**

Whilst writing I would just like to remind families that if your child is out of school because they or someone in their household has a cough or high temperature then they need to be self-isolating for 14 days. We have had reports of pupils playing out unsupervised. This puts others at risk. If you are socially distancing, you also need to ensure you are following the guidance provided.

As a school we are responding to guidance as quickly as we can but please be mindful that we are hearing this information at the same time as you, so will not have the answers to your questions immediately.

Finally, whilst these measures will be unsettling to children it is important that they, like us, recognise they are being taken in the interests of our society as a whole. Our school is ready to play its part in supporting the national effort that will be necessary over the coming weeks and months.

Thank you for your continued support and kind words, as ever the Guston School family are fabulous.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Mrs Day