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Dear Parents/ guardians,

19 March 2020

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to inform you that we are instructed to close the school to almost all pupils **from 3.15pm on Friday 20th March** until further notice.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers so that they can continue to work on the 'front line'. We are waiting for the Government to publish more information on what this means, but a provisional list suggests **NHS staff, police, teachers and school staff, prison and probation staff, social workers, Local Authority planners, firefighters, Ministry of Defence personnel, environmental health and highway agency officers, delivery drivers and possibly supermarket or grocery workers** will be considered.

It would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories by returning the form attached as soon as possible, together with evidence of employment eg named pay slip or employment contract. You can also attach these by email to the school office or call in personally to school. Please state if you will be sending your child in on Monday and whether you would want to send your child during the Easter Holidays. Attendance is entirely voluntary and you do not have to commit every day. **If there is a parent at home who is not a key worker then they should care for the child at home as part of social distancing.** The intention of the Government is that the number of children attending school falls by 90%.

Another group of children who will be invited to attend school are 'vulnerable children', defined as those with an Education, Health and Care plan, those who are a Looked After Child, and those who are supported by a Child Protection, Child In Need or LCSS-led Team Around the Family. Again attendance is voluntary and we will contact you on Friday to see if you wish for a place for Monday. This group will attend school only during term times and not during the planned Easter holidays or future holidays, and we will keep in touch with families by phone or email to make sure that you're safe.

Please do not send any child to school who has symptoms of Coronavirus, as this is unfair on the welfare of other children and of staff. Families with symptoms should self-isolate at home for 14 days.

Sadly, all other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards. Please note that this is a national closure so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is via email/ text.

If your child usually receives **free school meals** we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide these, with either daily collection of meals from our school kitchen or via vouchers for a local supermarket through a scheme that the government has just announced. We will update you on timings for this.

We remain committed to working with and supporting families under these exceptional circumstances. Children, especially our Year 6, have made remarkable progress this year and we will continue to support learning through work set daily on Class Dojo. Please return this daily so that we can assess it and give feedback on your work – many of the children have trialled this already and it has proved very popular! There are also lots of links to learning resources and

Headteacher; Mr N Blackwell BSc NPQH



educational websites on our school website, in the learning tab, together with a suggested timetable for each day from Miss Nicklin.

Please do make contact with the school directly if you know that you may need help or support with something during this time. Under these very unusual and challenging times, we will do our very best to help and support families where it is safe to do so and where it is practically possible. For all queries, please do email the main school office, which is accessible at all times. The email will be forwarded on to the member of staff that is most appropriate.

Alternatively, if it is a safeguarding issue, either regarding your own family or another school pupil, please contact myself on **(will advise separately)** which is a new email address set up especially for this purpose and will be checked regularly. If there is a member of the safeguarding team whom you already deal with I will forward it on. Duty workers will be on call at LCSS (Local Community Support Services) 0345 241 2703 and will be able to signpost Early Help. If a child is in danger of harm phone the MASH on 0845 050 7666 or if harm has taken place phone the police on 999.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole school community for your patience, support and cooperation during what is a very complex situation both for the school and the country as a whole. Our staff are amazing and work tirelessly on our children's behalf, juggling their own families who often see less of them than we do!

May God bless you and answer your prayers at this time. Psalm 23 vs 4 may be of some comfort: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me.

Best wishes

Neil Blackwell

Head Teacher

If you believe that you are a Key Worker, we would be grateful if you could provide the following information by return:

Your name:	
Your job title:	
Proof of employment:	(please attach)
Names of children and year group:	
Would you want to use term time school provision for your child to attend St Leonard's School? 8.40-3.15 (normal times)	
Would you want to use wrap around provision for your child at St Leonard's School? 7.30 -6.00 (normal times)	
Would you use the school provision during the Easter Holiday if this was available?	

Thank you in advance for providing this information at the earliest opportunity. We are keen to have provision in place from Monday.

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