

KDS/JSS

20 March 2020



Dear Parents/Carers

Update on School Closure – Friday 20 March 2020

Firstly, we would like to thank all parents for their patience and understanding during this difficult period. We have now received clearer but much stronger guidance from the government about the education provision which will be provided from Monday 23 March onwards.

The government has asked parents to keep their children at home wherever possible and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

Schools are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children, including those with EHCPs and children whose parents are critical to the COVID19 response and who cannot be safely cared for at home. **From this you can clearly see that this is not a provision for the majority of our students.**

All the details can be found at the following links:

Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Guidance for schools, colleges and local authorities on maintaining educational provision

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

As you will see from this information, education staff are included in the list of critical workers. We have therefore asked our staff who have children who cannot be safely cared for at home, to stay at home with their children. **Day by day the government guidance is getting stronger and it is becoming clear that the priority must be for an increasing number of people to stay at home and socially distance or isolate for the benefit of everyone in society.**

From Monday 23 March 2020, we will therefore have a limited number of spaces available to students in school, due to our reduced staffing levels. **We would reiterate that any student who can be safely cared for at home should stay at home.** As a secondary school, the vast number of students fall within this category and will be able to stay at home.

The government have provided a detailed list of critical workers and we would ask you to complete the Google Form, which can be accessed by following this link, by 1.00pm today, to enable us to plan for provision for students from Monday 23 March:-

Google form for Critical Workers

<https://forms.gle/LTb5C1DExHNgVHdD6>

Crestwood Community School

Shakespeare Campus, Shakespeare Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 4FZ | Cherbourg Campus, Cherbourg Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 5EL

Email: adminoffice@crestwood.hants.sch.uk Tel: 023 8064 1232 Web: www.crestwood.hants.sch.uk



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Given that we have an increasing number of staff following the guidance and staying at home, **we have a limited number of spaces available to students and will have to prioritise children of NHS frontline workers in the first instance.** I hate to be blunt, I have always been honest with you as parents that we are frontline staff too. I have to take seriously my duty of care to protect my staff and their families, hence the decision to prioritise children of NHS staff over others as it is clear the majority of people should be staying at home, socially distancing themselves.

We sent out our first batch of work on Thursday 19 March via Schoolcomms, which was also placed on the website, a link to the work posted on Facebook and lastly sent directly to students via their school email accounts. Packs of work are also available from reception on either campus, for all year groups and can be collected on Monday 23 March.

Students in Years 7 to 10 will be able to collect books and work from their home campuses at the following times on Monday 23rd March to support study at home:

- Y7: 11 - 11:45am
- Y8: 12 - 12:45pm
- Y9: 1 - 1:45pm
- Y10: 2 - 2:45pm

Books will be available from the student's tutor base/room. Year 11 books will need to stay in school at this time until we receive further clarification from the government about the awarding of qualifications this summer.

Students can also collect things from their lockers but are kindly asked to leave the site promptly so that we can clear the area before other students arrive.

Over the last few weeks we have been preparing for the eventuality of a school closure and have been placing a significant amount of work in various places, including Google Classroom and ClassCharts. Students also have access to other learning portals such as MyMaths, PiXL English Lit App, PiXL Maths App and Tassomai.

We are very aware that during the school closure students may feel isolated. We will be setting up phone lines for students who require emotional support, staffed by our highly skilled pastoral team and they will operate from 9.00am to 2.00pm, Monday to Friday, commencing Monday 23 March. Numbers are as follows:-

Zena Smith - 07385 252141
Denise Sharp - 07385 252049
Michaila Dieng - 07385 252050
Karla Walters - 07388 376789

We are also exploring the use of Google Hangouts which will allow staff and students to communicate through a safe school system which means they can have virtual face to face contact.

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Finally, just a reminder of the NHS guidance:-

Stay at home if you have either:-

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

Use the 111 online coronavirus service to find out what to do.

How long to stay at home:-

- if you have symptoms of coronavirus, you'll need to stay at home for 7 days
- if you live with someone who has symptoms, you'll need to stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person in the home started having symptoms
- If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days.

If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.

Thank you for your continued support in these difficult times. I will continue to update you when I have new information. Please be safe and do what the government is telling you to do as this is what will stop this virus spreading and us all getting back to normality.

Best wishes

Krista Dawkins
Headteacher

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