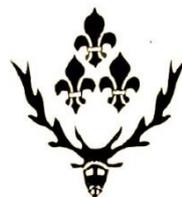


Giffards Primary School

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'Valuing Everyone As Learners'

19/3/20

Re School Closure

During the closure period we have set work for the children. This will focus on reading, writing and maths and the topic/theme area the children were covering in school. At the front of each pupils reading record or stapled to this letter is a set of log ins for a variety of on line resources, we are also sending home a sheet giving details of relevant websites which the children are familiar with, these have activities to support learning for all ages and abilities.

All the children have a log in for purple mash, this software allows the children to access a set of '2dos', these have been set by their class teachers and are linked to current areas of learning. There are games as well as online learning activities. All the work completed is saved to the child's own account so their teachers can view it.

We are also including some work in paper format, as it is likely there may be disruption to online platforms due to the large amount of use and we appreciate not all children have access to computers/tablets.

Please ensure that your child stays up to date with their learning by completing what has been set.

We will endeavour to post daily messages on the Giffards twitter site @giffardsprimary. Mr Miller will be posting challenges and ideas for keeping fit on the Giffards PE twitter @giffards_PE, so do look at what is added.

Each year group will send home an overview of what we'd like the children to work on. We have tried to ensure that there is a variety of tasks, challenges and learning opportunities to engage the pupils for approximately the same amount of time they'd be at school. This is to minimise disruption to learning as well as supporting parents in finding ways to keep your children meaningfully occupied during this unusual time.

We will keep parents updated via group call as to what is happening, as and when we know something, and will try and respond to any queries you have. We will respond to emails sent to admin@giffardsprimary.thurrock.sch.uk but please be patient as we may not be in a position to respond quickly, especially if we have staff sickness.

Obviously, we want our children to be healthy and for this virus to be contained. Therefore, I am reminding you that your children should remain indoors during this closure and focus on their education at home. They should not be mixing in the local community as this is a bigger risk for the community at large.

Children who are permitted to attend school

Schools will remain open for some pupils; children of key workers, children who have an Education Health Care Plan and children who have an allocated social worker. School are aware of those on

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EHC Plans and those with social workers and we have already contacted these parents individually to inform them of what this means for their family.

We still have not had any clarification as to who is considered a key worker. This information was supposed to be released today, I am informed it may now be tomorrow (Friday 20th March).

To support parents I'd like to clarify the following occupations are generally considered to be key workers. This is not necessarily exhaustive, please do complete and return the form sent out earlier if you haven't already done so if you feel you are a key worker

- National Health Service
- Armed forces
- Teachers and childcare staff
- Care home workers
- Social workers
- Police officers, community support, civilian staff
- Prison officer or other probation staff
- Firefighters/ rescue services
- Local authority planners
- Environmental health officers
- Highway Agency traffic officers
- Delivery drivers and essential food supply staff

There is some confusion over the eligibility criteria for parents to still send their children to school, with regards to whether this is only if both parents qualify as key workers. We ourselves have not received clarity and are in the dark as much as you all are. We will contact parents as soon as we get clarity. It may be that if you are a keyworker **but** you have a partner that is not, it is expected you keep your child/ren at home. We appreciate the good will of parents by keeping your children at home where at all possible. This is a fast moving situation and we are trying our hardest to keep up to date with all the information. We will update you again as soon as we know what the regulations say.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Haslam-Davis

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