



'Believe you can'

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Re: Coronavirus update – school closure from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March until further notice**

Dear all,

Further to the Government's announcement yesterday, the school will close for pupils from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – with the exception of:

1. pupils categorised by the government as 'vulnerable', or
2. pupils with parents defined by the government as 'keyworkers'.

**Vulnerable pupils and the children of 'key workers':**

The government has designated the following children as vulnerable:

The following categories have been defined as 'key workers'

For these pupils **only**, school will remain open for as long as possible.

In the event that we are unable to provide this reduced provision, local authorities will work with the Department for Education's regional teams to ensure an alternative option is available.

If your child meets the category of vulnerable (as per point 1, above) **or both** parents meet the given criteria for 'key workers' (as per point 2, above), please complete the form on the 'Homelearning' page of our website.

We will assess each situation before agreeing to provide a school place during the closure.

**Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care – in line with government advice.**

**Children's learning:**

For this year, the Government has cancelled all national curriculum assessments. This means the following assessments, planned between April and July 2020, are cancelled:

- end of key stage 1 and key stage 2 assessments (including tests and teacher assessment)

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- phonics screening check
- multiplication tables check
- science sampling tests
- all statutory trialling

During the main closure period, children will be provided with daily learning activities via Showbie with effect from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. A suggested timetable has been attached to this letter (though we understand that parents may choose to work towards a timetable that suits their own personal circumstances.)

All information regarding this will continue to be shared on the school website page named 'Home learning' – which can be found at the following link:  
<http://www.theolivetreeprimary.com/home-learning.html>

**Free Schools Meals: (Excluding the Universal Free School Meals provided to EYFS / KS1):**

The school will provide a 'pass' for use with our caterer – Taste Bakery – which is situated at 58 Back High St, Bolton BL3 6SZ. The current published opening times for the bakery are:

- Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm
- Saturday, 10am – 3pm
- Sunday closed

**Communication:**

In terms of communication, we will use our school website as the main source of information and will regularly update it accordingly. Should you have any queries about your child's learning, please use 'Class Dojo' to communicate with your child's class teacher. Class teachers will aim to respond to your messages within 24 hours between the hours 8:30am – 3:30pm, Monday to Friday. In the event that you are unable to access Class Dojo, please email our school office on [admin@theolivetreeprimary.com](mailto:admin@theolivetreeprimary.com).

**Holiday period:**

Unless we advise otherwise, all scheduled holiday periods will take place according to our published holiday calendar which can be found on our school website at the following link: <http://www.theolivetreeprimary.com/holiday-pattern.html>

Accordingly, the school will close as scheduled from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020. In the event that school is unable to reopen on Monday April 20<sup>th</sup> we will provide the latest Government advice.

**Staff wellbeing:**

Whilst our staff are committed to ensuring continuity of learning for our pupils during the main closure period, we are also mindful that they too have families and are susceptible to illness. In the event that your child's class teacher or designated

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member of staff becomes ill, we will attempt to make transitional arrangements to support their learning.

**Coronavrius updates:**

We will continue to update the main page of our school website with information from the government as we receive it. In the meantime, please use the link below to access the latest 'stay at home' guidance from the Government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank our school community for their forbearance at this difficult time. May I also remind our entire school community that the situation we are currently operating in is both unprecedented and challenging. In light of this, we are grateful for your patience and support whilst we try and keep our community safe and do the best we can under the circumstances.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. H. Asghar  
Principal

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