

18/03/20

Dear Parents and Carers,

Due to the recent announcement from the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson that all UK schools must close due to the spread of Coronavirus, we are writing to officially notify you of Acacia closure.

Tonight, the government made several announcements regarding schools. Firstly, they have announced that schools, colleges and early years settings will be closed to everyone except children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday, as part of the country's ongoing response to coronavirus.

This is an extremely difficult situation which impacts us all, but the government believes that the closure of schools is necessary to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of everyone and prevent further spread of the virus. The Prime Minister has advised that children should not be left with older grandparents or older relatives who may be particularly vulnerable to the Coronavirus.

The government has given examples of who those key workers could be, including NHS staff, police and delivery drivers who need to be able to go to work. Vulnerable children are also included in the guidance and these could include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans. Those families who fall under these categories should identify themselves to the school between 8:30am – 4:00pm tomorrow Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March via email or calling the school office. This will be very helpful for us to begin our planning for your children for Monday.

The Cabinet Office will publish a full list of key worker categories tomorrow and we will share this with parents as soon as it has been released to schools. Once we have the government published list, we would request that you inform the school if your family are within these categories and your child/ren will be continuing to attend school from Monday. Once we have a comprehensive list of those who will be attending we will send a full schedule of the day to families, whilst all safeguarding and health and safety procedures and policies will remain in place as normal, we will look into flexibility around uniforms during this time.

The government has said that children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care. We know that this new guidance will be difficult for many families, however the government and Public Health England now feel that this measure is needed to protect your families from this outbreak.

We know that the measures announced tonight have wide impact and we continue to appeal for your support as a community at this very difficult time. We ask that everyone listens and follows the guidance from the government and Public Health England in order to keep ourselves safe. As soon as we have an official date to re-open, we will communicate this with you via text, email and the school website. The school will continue to update and inform you throughout this time.

Until then, we would like to offer our very best wishes and hope that anybody affected by this unprecedented virus makes a speedy recovery.

Yours Sincerely,

David Livie

Head of School