



19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 – SCHOOL CLOSURE

It was announced yesterday by the Secretary of State for Education that schools will close at the end of the day on Friday, 20th March 2020 until further notice. The key points were:

- Schools will close at the end of the day on Friday except for certain categories of children:
 - Vulnerable children. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans.
 - Children of essential workers. Examples of these workers include NHS staff, police and delivery drivers who need to be able to go to work. A full list of key worker categories will be published by the Cabinet Office later today.
- Meals or vouchers will be provided for those in receipt of free school meals
- There will be no SATS tests in May

Clearly this announcement raises a lot of questions about how this works in practice. We anticipate receiving more detailed and specific guidance from the DfE and I will then write to you again when we have further information.

In the first instance we would like to identify parents who are essential workers. Please can you email your Head of School, Louise Nicholls (loddisswell@southhamsfederation.org.uk) and let us know if you are an essential worker and your work commitments so that we can plan accordingly.

In the meantime it is absolutely imperative that we have your up to date contact details. If you have recently changed your details please let your school administrator know.

I recognise these are difficult times for parents in all sorts of different ways. Updates will be emailed to you and posted on the school website. We will continue to do all we can to work with you throughout this rapidly developing situation in the best interests of our children.

Yours sincerely

S A Jezard
Executive Headteacher
South Hams Federation