



CHURCH EATON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear parent/carer,

Re: Coronavirus concerns

This week has been a huge challenge for us all with uncertainty clouding every decision made and conversation held. I am pleased that the government have recognised the hard work that has been taking place in schools and the dedication of those within them. I would personally like to thank our incredible team for their stalwart attitude this week in what has been an incredibly stressful situation.

We have just heard that schools will close on Friday. I am grateful that a decision has finally been made as I am fully aware of the unrest it was causing, however, there are now many complicated issues to address as a result of the announcement.

At 5.15pm yesterday, the Secretary of State for Education gave a public statement that all state-funded schools in England will be closed from the end of the school day on Friday.

Having indicated that all schools will be closed, he then indicated that they would be expected to remain open for the children of key workers and for those in various vulnerable categories - providing a safe place and access to meals. We are expecting a definition of 'key worker' today from the Cabinet Office. It will take time to determine the nature of this provision.

Although we have been anticipating such an announcement, and prepared for various scenarios, the limited details released raise considerably more questions than answers. You will all have your own legitimate concerns and queries.

The Secretary of State gave no undertaking that schools will be expected to sustain a pattern of normal learning during the closure; rather that any available staff will be expected to support other frontline efforts. Our school response is yet to be determined.

I will be working on this today and tomorrow with my staff and senior leaders from our local schools to clarify as best we can what this announcement means for our schools, for our pupils and for you. I anticipate providing more details later tomorrow.

Please allow me to make plans with the staff over the next couple of days and I will inform you of what we will be able to offer as soon as I can.

I will do everything I can for the good of the children, parents and staff of Church Eaton.

Once again, I would like to thank you, in anticipation for your support in these extraordinary times.

Yours sincerely

Simon Shaw

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Headteacher