

The Coppice Primary School

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Headteacher:
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Closure (from end of the school day, Friday 20th March), except for eligible children.

19.03.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

An oft-used phrase at the moment, but these are unprecedented times needing some radical solutions.

We do see ourselves as being on the front line, supporting the wider community in this time of crisis. And we are pleased and proud to do so.

As you will be aware, school is now closing to all children, apart from those of key workers (where both parents are key workers or a single-parent is) as well as those children with a named social worker and/or EHC plan. In addition, school will also be open over the Easter break just for those children of key workers (as defined within the survey we texted to parents). However, school attendance is not compulsory for any of these children apart from those with named social workers.

Obviously, we will try to stay open for as long as we can for these eligible children. However, we are mindful of reduced (and 'quickly-reducing') staffing levels. Already, we have had to send home two of our teachers who are expectant mums, staff with underlying conditions and younger staff who live with parents over 70, or with parents who have underlying conditions. In addition, there are one or two staff self-isolating because of their own current health or that of a family member (no doubt this number will increase).

So, considering the above staffing restrictions, we cannot have any flexibility around the eligibility for children to attend school.

You will be aware of our expectations around distance/home learning from earlier communications.

Please accept my apologies, but I have no idea of how long these circumstances will hold and we have no option but to close for non-eligible children (it's a Government Directive in an attempt to 'slow the spread' of the virus). We will let you know more as soon as we do.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Heptinstall

