

# Waterside Primary Academy

Blackhorse Avenue, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 1QU

Telephone: 01494 786608 Facsimile: 01494 773287

Email: [office@watersideprimaryacademy.org](mailto:office@watersideprimaryacademy.org)

Website: [www.watersideprimaryacademy.org](http://www.watersideprimaryacademy.org)

Headteacher: Daniel Atherton



**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

## **Re: School Closure & Final Information**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to confirm the future plans as school will officially be closed from the end of today until further notice for most pupils.

### **Childcare Provision**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs. There has been much communication about this in the last couple of days and I would like to point you to our school webpage with all information linked to this (link below).

<https://www.watersideprimaryacademy.org/page/?title=Coronavirus+Updates&pid=54>

We have now compiled a final list of these children and we will be contacting the relevant families by 6pm this evening so that you have finer details and certainty for next week.

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by using our usual channels of communication (email, text message & Twitter).

### **Work Packs & Library**

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn to the best of our ability.

As stated in the letter yesterday, packs will be sent home with the children in school today. Those who are able to collect may do so between 4-5pm today and we will be delivering packs to others this afternoon. Staff have worked very hard to provide appropriate resources for your child which is not an easy task. Year 6 children already have packs and Mr Waters will send out an email to state the pages which they need to complete. You will have seen that the SATs have been cancelled this year, but we believe this work is essential in order to prepare them for secondary school. Work is to be kept at home and does not need to be returned to school. We hope that you will all make the most of this work whilst making the most of the family time.

When able to do so, staff will be available to support during school hours. Please email the school email address ([office@watersideprimaryacademy.org](mailto:office@watersideprimaryacademy.org)) and these messages will be sent on to teachers as soon as possible during the normal working day. However, despite the majority of staff currently being fit and well, please do bear in mind that staff may be ill and will not be able to respond immediately in some circumstances.



# Waterside Primary Academy

Blackhorse Avenue, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 1QU

Telephone: 01494 786608 Facsimile: 01494 773287

Email: [office@watersideprimaryacademy.org](mailto:office@watersideprimaryacademy.org)

Website: [www.watersideprimaryacademy.org](http://www.watersideprimaryacademy.org)



**Headteacher: Daniel Atherton**

Further communication will follow regarding the delivery of future work. This may be in the form of packs which need to be collected and/or online work. We will be working over the weekend to generate a list of support, links and helpful resources for the children to access at home so they will have plenty to do!

In addition to this, we will be offering a library service every week. The first of these will be on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March from 2-5pm. Access will be through the Box Tree entrance and staff will be on hand to assist with changing books. The second session will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the same time. We will strive to keep this service running for the foreseeable future, including during holidays. Future times and dates will be released in due course.

## **Breakfast Club & Free School Meals**

We will continue to operate a school breakfast club. This is available free of charge to all children who receive Free School Meals (FSMs) and will be a drop in service (8.30am-10am). Parents will have to stay with their child while they eat and are welcome to join them for food if they wish. Access for this will be through the usual entrance from Waterside (old Children's Centre access).

Furthermore, these children will also be entitled to a free school meal every weekday. This will also be a collection service which will most likely be a healthy packed lunch. These will be available in the school canteen between 12-1pm, with access via the Box Tree entrance only and parental supervision necessary.

Although the FSMs are a government backed scheme, we will subsidise this where necessary to ensure that all children (and families in our community) are fed during this challenging period for everyone.

## **Safeguarding**

As we will not be seeing most children for a while, the safeguarding team will be available to provide support to you all. On top of this, you may develop your own concerns about the welfare of a child or family. If you do so, please email my personal email address [headteacher@watersideprimaryacademy.org](mailto:headteacher@watersideprimaryacademy.org) and I will check this on a regular basis and be in touch where necessary. This information will be strictly confidential and your support with ensuring that everyone is safe will be greatly appreciated. I kindly ask that you only use this email address for safeguarding matters and all other information is directed to the school office.

Furthermore, we will complete welfare checks either by phone or in person every week to offer support and assistance where possible. These will be prioritised based on vulnerability. We also appreciate that this is a difficult time financially for all. Should you require any assistance, including Food Bank support or child care, please also use my email address for this for confidentiality.



# Waterside Primary Academy

Blackhorse Avenue, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 1QU

Telephone: 01494 786608 Facsimile: 01494 773287

Email: [office@watersideprimaryacademy.org](mailto:office@watersideprimaryacademy.org)

Website: [www.watersideprimaryacademy.org](http://www.watersideprimaryacademy.org)



**Headteacher: Daniel Atherton**

## **What will we be doing?**

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the Waterside staff for going 'over and above' for our school community. This has not just been during these challenging few weeks, but since the start of the school year. We use the phrase 'over and above' in school a lot and the work ethic, attitude and love I have seen the staff give to the school has been nothing less than outstanding. I am sure that you will pass on your appreciation to them too, as the school has fully-functioned over the last few weeks when others have been missing multiple staff. This has made my life easy and ensured that the children have been able to continue with their normal school routines.

Staff will be in school and also working from home throughout this period (health permitting) and we will continue to work to complete more exciting improvements throughout the school for when the children return, whenever that may be.

## **Health Guidance**

All of the information above is accurate at the time of writing. However, as you will now be used to, this may quickly become out of date and we may need to make adjustments to the plans. We will contact you with this as soon as we can.

Furthermore, I would like to reiterate the key health messages which we have heard over the last few weeks, including washing hands, avoiding non-essential travel and social contact and self-isolating when required. We all have a duty to follow these government guidelines in order to fight this virus and save as many lives as possible.

When visiting the school site for lunch collections, drop off etc., please do so with all of this information in mind.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#) and follow the guidance on our school webpage.

Finally, I am sure that many of you have questions about the return to school and future events. All events for March and April are cancelled and we will update you with key dates in May, June and July (including residential trips).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can. Please stay safe, look after each other and we look forward to seeing you as soon as possible!

Kind regards,

*Daniel Atherton*

**Headteacher**

