



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great sadness that I write this letter. For many of you, we will not see you again for a number of weeks. Following government advice, the school will close for most children as of Monday 23rd March. The school has been asked to remain open for the children of key workers and for those children with a social worker and/or Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and SEN funding.

Who will the school be open for?

Yesterday I sent a text to all parents/carers asking them to identify if they are a key worker and make contact with the school. Today we have contacted all of the children with a social worker, EHCP, SEN funding and vulnerable families. Through discussions, we have established whether a place will be available in the school. If you have not received a text or letter confirming your child has a place at school, they must not attend school until further notice.

Will the children have work to complete?

Many of you have asked for work for your child/ren to complete during this time. Staff across the school have created homework packs (including this week's homework) for each child. This work should last up until the Easter holidays. Should the need arise, the school will (where possible) create more homework packs after the Easter holidays.

The pack consists of:

- Maths online - TTRockstars, Maths with Parents & MyMaths.
- Reading - First News activities - as well as encouraging your child/ren to read their books from home each day.
- Topic - A range of creative activities related to this term's topic.
- Fitness - some ideas of 'circuit training' activities that could be practised together at home.

In addition to this, we have signposted you to a range of additional resources which you can use with your children. These are available on the school website at:

<http://www.carpenters.newham.sch.uk/curriculum.html>.

What can I do to support my child?

The most helpful thing you can do is to ensure that your child/ren can access a computer/device to work on, as the school is now closing. This will enable them to access materials online and via email. It does not need to be an expensive device: a chromebook or similar that has internet access would suffice. If you are unable to provide your child with a computer to use, please let us know so that we can try to make alternative arrangements. We are not in a position to be able to provide devices - but we will do all we can to provide work via an alternative method should that be the case.

Avoiding Anxiety:

The government and the NHS have made lots of advice about Coronavirus (also called Covid-19) available on their websites. I recommend that you look to those sources of information for updates and news about the virus and avoid listening to rumour and second hand information from other sources.

We need to be aware that this virus, along with other world issues such as climate change, international relations and their future prospects may heighten some children's anxieties.

You know your own child best, but together we should:

- ***Do our best not to sensationalise or over dramatise the issue.***
- ***Steer children away from some of the news coverage and social media channels.***
- ***Stick to known facts rather than speculation.***
- ***Avoid passing on our own concerns to our children.***

Everybody has their own levels for tolerating stress, anxiety and disruption and will react to situations like this in our own way. We have created a page on the school's website, signposting you to a range of additional resources. These are available on the school website at: <http://www.carpenters.newham.sch.uk/covid19-support.html>.

During the closure, the school will be monitoring the school email address for urgent queries - info@carpenters.newham.sch.uk.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation. As soon as we have any update on when the school will reopen, I will contact you via text and/or email.

Please take care and I look forward to seeing you all very soon.



Diane Barrick
Headteacher