



**WESTGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Striving for Excellence • Caring for Children



We're working
towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts
Council England

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Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support in what has been the most unusual week I've ever experienced in a school. You will be feeling worried and wondering how you are going to juggle commitments during school closure. We understand that all of us are going to have to cope with difficult circumstances. Unfortunately, there are no easy answers.

In school today, in class and in assembly, we have talked to the children about four key questions:

- Why is school closing?
- When will we be coming back to school?
- How will I carry on learning?
- I feel worried/ sad. What should I do?

We have been honest with the children. We do not know when we will reopen. It is possible that it may not be until September, or it could be sooner. However, we are expecting this to last for a reasonable while, based on experiences elsewhere in the world. We are particularly aware of how this affects Y6 and the end of their time with us. Class teachers have spent today getting children ready for home learning- how they might organise their day, what things they can do. This will all be covered too in information coming home tomorrow.

It's important that children's fears and worries are acknowledged and discussed with adults in and out of school. Our focus has been on reassurance and honesty.

The government has not yet released further information about the key worker group.

At present, we are planning to provide wraparound care from Monday 23/03/20, based in the Key Stage 2 building, for eligible children who **need** to access this provision. While I understand that other families may also like to access this, I am afraid that this is not possible. Further information about this provision will come home separately tomorrow to eligible families.

Home learning packs will come home tomorrow, along with login details and further guidance for parents. If your child is already self-isolating, packs will be sent home with neighbours where possible, or else hand-delivered. Children accessing school childcare will have chance to complete these tasks, supervised by school staff, as they would be doing if they were at home.

This is an ever-changing, completely new and challenging situation. We may find in time that what we have planned needs to change in order to make it work better- whether it's our childcare provision or our remote learning. I must ask you to bear with us and approach the coming weeks with the understanding that everything we do is with the best of intentions. Mistakes may well be made and we will learn from these, but an enormous amount of thought is going into our plans.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Carpenter', written in a cursive style.

Helen Carpenter
Head teacher