



Billingshurst Primary School
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Dear Parents and Carers

Following last night's briefing by the Prime Minister, all schools have been closed to most children for at least the next 6 weeks. I know that this is a position none of us wanted to be in but the data on the virus is stark and it is clear that difficult decisions have to be made to get this under control.

We are open to key worker families and vulnerable children. Please, even if you are a key worker, try to keep your children at home where possible. If there is an alternative to sending them in to school, please take this up. We need to minimise the numbers in school to reduce the risk of transmission of this virus. If you are a key worker but your partner is not, and is available, please keep your children at home. This is for the safety of our staff, the children and your families.

Many families have been in to collect learning packs – the printed version of the curriculum. Research has shown that the dominant methods of accessing on line learning is via a smartphone. We have planned our curriculum for this so that it is easily accessible on a smartphone and best supported by a physical pack. Children can then watch the videos (recorded not live so that they can be used again and again) and work on the pack. If you need a pack delivered, please let us know as members of our school community have offered to deliver these. If you are in receipt of benefits and are having issues with the cost of data on your phone, please let me know and we will look into what we can do to support you.

Each week, the following week's curriculum will be on line by 3pm on Friday and packs will be available to collect the following Monday morning. If you are coming in to collect a pack it would be a good idea to avoid the drop-off and pick-up times at the start and the end of the day.

If you are in receipt of Free School Meals benefits, we are expecting the voucher scheme to return for children not currently attending school. Please bear with us as we are awaiting information on this. If you and your family are struggling financially, having difficulty affording food and other essentials or have worries and concerns during this time, please contact us via email or telephone. Just ask for a call back and one of the senior team will call you in confidence as soon as possible.

Please follow the rules, stay at home and keep safe; children should not be mixing outside of school and should be at home. The sooner we get this under control, the sooner we can return to a more normal way of working and get children back in school.

Yours sincerely

Helen Williamson
Headteacher

