

Sir Martin Frobisher Academy

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5th January 2021

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Continued School Closure

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, the government announced at 8pm on Monday 4th January we will be entering another national lockdown with immediate effect. This means that schools will be closed to most pupils, other than vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers. This is expected to last up until the February half-term.

Keeping Pupils Safe

There is nothing more important to us than the safety of our children and community. Although we are really looking forward to the opportunity to see as many of our children as possible again, we will of course be following the government guidance to keep children and families as safe as possible.

When the government confirms that schools in this area are allowed to open fully again, we will carry out a full risk assessment and open at the earliest possible opportunity.

We will continue to send you a weekly bulletin with updates and the Office will also be manned each day by a member of the Office Team. The Pastoral Team will contact any vulnerable families at least once a week and if you are struggling with heating, or food, please let us know. Please use the updates@smfa.org.uk or the frobisher.admin@smfa.org.uk email addresses if you have any queries and questions. These will be passed on to the relevant member of staff.

Face-to-Face Education

Although the school will be closed, we will still be able to provide face-to-face education for the following pupils who will be **eligible** to attend school:

- Children of critical workers

The following pupils will be **expected** to attend school:

- Vulnerable pupils: those with a EHCP, with a Social Worker, or other pupils deemed as potentially vulnerable due to personal circumstances.

The Face-to-Face Education facility will be supervised by members of the Support Team and will be open from 9am – 3pm. It will run from the school hall. The children will access the same work packs and online learning in school as they would at home. Please ensure your child wears school uniform. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be on site from 8am - 4pm.

Remote Learning

You should now have received a unique login for Microsoft Teams and a set of instructions so that your child can access live learning in the future. Please remember to help your child log in at 2pm today for a practice session.

If you do not have a device for your child or access to the Internet, please contact the school office. We have a limited number of devices and Internet dongles, which we are able to loan to families during this period.

During this period of remote learning, teachers will be working from home and some classes have been grouped to ensure that online teaching can be sustained, two members of staff can always be available for live lessons and to enable the school to facilitate the Face-to-Face Education facility.

Classes have been grouped as follows:

- Group 1 - Julia Donaldson and Judith Kerr Classes
- Group 2 – Oliver Jeffers Class
- Group 3 – Roald Dahl Class
- Group 4 – Enid Blyton and Jacqueline Wilson Classes
- Group 5 – Michael Morpurgo Class
- Group 6 – JK Rowling and Michael Rosen Classes

You will receive further communication today from your child's class teacher about what their daily timetable for online learning will look like for the next few weeks. Please bear with us whilst we grapple with this new way of teaching.

A register will be taken at the beginning of every live session and your child is **expected** to access learning throughout this closure period. We will be making phone calls to support anyone who is not attending the live learning.

Support for pupils and families

We do not underestimate how difficult the ongoing coronavirus pandemic has been on children and their families. Parents may wish to seek support for themselves from the following support agencies:

- Samaritans – call free 24 hours a day on 116 123
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline – call for free and confidential advice, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247
- Shelter provide free confidential information, support and legal advice on all housing and homelessness issues if you call 0330 0536 083 (please note, this is not a free phone number and your call will be charged). A free webchat is available at https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help/webchat
- NSPCC -Help for adults concerned about a child: call on 0808 800 5000. Help for children and young people call Childline on 0800 1111.
- Clacton food bank - 01255 431760 or tracy.cooke@salvationarmy.org.uk

And finally...

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. We know that the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic are not yet over, but with your help we are determined to continue to do the very best for all our children throughout this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Debbie Conroy

Headteacher