



Mary Webb School & Science College, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 0TG

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Update for Parents/Carers - The closure of educational settings, in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As you know, from Monday 23rd March 2020, all schools across the UK were asked to close to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The government's advice was clear. If children can stay at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. However, schools are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children. These include children who are vulnerable and children whose parents/carers are critical to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) response **and** cannot be safely cared for at home. The government has provided clear guidance and have asked families to follow these key principles:

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

More details for parents/carers on the closure of educational settings can be found via the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

The government's announcement on Monday 23rd March 2020, regarding new, stricter measures to combat the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), have not changed the current arrangements which are in place, including those at Mary Webb School and Science College. However, we must all now adhere to the limitations placed upon movement, access to shops and open spaces and gatherings of two or more people, whilst ensuring that we continue to go out and exercise once a day. It has been stated that these new measures will be reviewed in three weeks' time, which falls within the Easter holidays.

Schools are currently awaiting guidance and information regarding any requirement for them to remain open during the Easter holiday period. Mary Webb School and Science College has made arrangements to be open during the Easter break, in order to continue provision for the group of students currently attending school, should this still be required. We will be in contact with those parents/carers who are considered to be critical workers, when we are provided with more guidance from the Department for Education.

Students Accessing Learning

Procedures to enable students to access learning came into effect on Monday 23rd March 2020. The school has now developed and implemented 'Home Learning Protocols' for online learning, enabling all students to access learning materials and subject specific tasks through the ClassCharts portal. Work is being set in line with the normal subject allocation on the school timetable. Students will be directed to the resources they require to complete the work set. All staff will provide their email contact details so that students can access support, advice and guidance through one-to-one

exchanges with staff. Those students who are still attending school in order to access their learning are studying the same material, in the same way, using the school's facilities.

GCSE Exams

We have contacted Year 11 students and their parents/carers in relation to the cancellation of the summer exam series. We are expecting further updates next week and will contact students and parents/carers when we have more information to share.

Free School Meals

The parents of children who are entitled to and claim free school meals have been contacted and informed of the school's interim measures to continue this service. If you have not been contacted and believe you should have been, please contact Mrs Murray as soon as possible via email on nmurray@marywebbschool.com.

We are still awaiting details on the government's plans to continue this provision. When we know more of these plans, we will contact the parents it concerns.

Critical Workers

We now have a database of all the parents who are classified as critical workers by the government. We have been in contact with all these parents in relation to the provision for their children. If you believe you should be in this category, please contact Mrs Murray as soon as possible via email on nmurray@marywebbschool.com.

Yours sincerely

PJ Lowe-Werrell

Mr P J Lowe Werrell
Headteacher

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