

19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid-19 – Preparing for School Closures from Monday 23rd March

Thank you for your patience and support this week as we manage the impact of Covid-19 on Furze Platt Senior School. This letter seeks to further clarify points in relation to the school closure announcement and how they impact our school. However, I need to emphasise there is much we still do not know and will need to share with you in the future.

Friday 20 March – School Closed for Years 7, 8 and 9

Sadly, we have a number of new staff self-isolating in the last 24 hours. This means that we are unable to safely educate an additional year group. Prioritising those students closest to examinations, we have therefore chosen to **close to Year 7 as well as Years 8 and 9 on Friday 20 March.**

I appreciate that this may cause issues, particularly for children of key workers and we are happy to accommodate your child. Please email keyworker@furzeplatt.net should you be sending your child to school. Can you please ask them to come to the library first thing in the morning.

Furze Platt Senior School will be closed at 3.15 pm on Friday 20 March for Years 10,11,12 and 13

As announced by the Education Secretary and Prime Minister, unless you are a key worker or your child has an EHCP then we will close for students from the end of this Friday.

Work will be set as detailed in my letter of Monday 16 March available here:
<https://www.furzeplatt.com/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=1535>.

Staff will be setting work using Show My Homework. Should you or your children have trouble accessing Show My Homework please use the following link:
<https://www.furzeplatt.com/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=1538>.

We will have a limited team on site and our staff will be available online should you or your sons and daughters have questions or queries.

Children of Key Workers

If you are a key worker, we would be happy to provide childcare during the hours of 8.30-4.30. As I write this the government has yet to define key workers but promised yesterday to provide a list on the Cabinet Office website today: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/cabinet-office>

If you are one of these workers I would be grateful if you follow this link <http://bit.ly/33snq7C> and complete our online survey. This will enable us to identify key workers and their children, as well as whether or not you intend to send your child to school. We also have a dedicated email keyworker@furzeplatt.net should you have any questions.

EHCP Students

Likewise, we are happy to provide on-site support for students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). I already know that some parents and carers of students with EHCPs would sooner keep their children at home. However, should you be intending to send your child into school please could you use the keyworker@furzeplatt.net to inform us.

Students in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM)

Prior to the government's announcements yesterday, we had already arranged to send vouchers to FSM students in Years 8 and 9 this week, and for all FSM students next week. This will continue to happen. However, yesterday the government announced that they will be organising a 'national voucher system'. We will be in contact once we know more.

No Examinations this Academic Year

From parental correspondence yesterday and meeting our students this morning I know many were devastated that they were not going to be able to show the results of their hard work. As I explained in assemblies, it is very unclear as to how students will be rewarded and what may replace examinations. As I have said in separate letters to Years 11 and 13 today I will keep you informed as soon as we have news.

Events

With the school closed there remains considerable uncertainty over future events. I simply ask parents and carers to be patient, look out for communications from Furze Platt Senior School and we will endeavour to inform you once timelines are clearer. At this point, I can confirm that all events up to the 8 May Bank Holiday will not happen.

I trust that this letter helps detail how Furze Platt Senior School has started to respond to the school closure announcement. There will be more to come as things develop. In the meantime, I want to again wish you and your family all the best at this time. I hope you stay safe and well.

Your sincerely,

Dr Andrew Morrison
Headteacher (BA Hons, PGCE, MA, PhD)