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Learning and Growing Together

Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

19th March 2020,

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you all at an unprecedented time. Never has our local community and nation faced such a challenge.

I am sure that you have all now heard the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson CBE MP, inform the nation that schools will close on Friday 20th March 2020 until further notice with some important exceptions.

Schools have been asked to provide a safe and secure place during the day for children of key workers and children with an EHCP and/or social worker. The initial guidance provided to schools from the Department for Education constituting a key worker provides examples including NHS staff, police and delivery drivers. A full list of key worker categories will be published later today by the Cabinet Office.

The value and importance of the role undertaken by all such workers is recognised by everyone at Park View Primary School and as a staff team we will do all we can to support you so that you can best support our community at this critical time.

I would like to ask that if you consider yourself to be a 'key worker' that you provide the following information to school as soon as possible, and by 12.00noon tomorrow at the latest, so that we can best prepare our continuity plan:

- **Email the school office: parkview@bury.gov.uk with your name and your child's name**
- **Provide details of your employer and the key worker role that you undertake**
- **Indicate if you require 'holiday care' during the Easter and May holidays**

Whilst at this early stage we cannot confirm if holiday care will be available, it is our intention to provide this if it is possible and safe to do so. A further communication and confirmation will follow.

Over the course of today and tomorrow, parents with an EHCP plan and/or social worker will be contacted by Mrs McClean to discuss arrangements.

Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care. As the government has stated, where possible, keeping your family at home is the safest way of preventing the virus from spreading.

I hope that the learning packs and online materials that school has provided to support your child's learning during this period prove helpful and we will endeavour to provide additional work and signposts to useful sites and resources to support you further over the coming weeks.

We are also currently looking at how we can best provide meals or vouchers to children eligible for free school meals. The Department for Education is intending to put in place a national voucher system and further details and information on this will also follow, please be patient with this. However in the interim, if any family is struggling, please do get in touch and we will do all that we possibly can to assist.

We also understand that school closure will have an impact on the wrap around care that we provide as a school. Unfortunately, it will now not be possible to operate our club from the end of this week. We will however provide a child care service for the children of key workers should this be required from 7.30am – 6.00pm by school staff. A letter providing further information will follow. For those parents who have booked an Out of School Club place in advance you will have the full amount refunded to your account shortly. For those parents who pay for the club via childcare vouchers, this will be carried forward as a credit on your child's account when the club is reopened. I would like to thank you all for your patience during this time and if you have any queries regarding this matter please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Brunsden, via email at osc@parkviewprimary.com

Furthermore, the guidance I have received from the Department for Education has confirmed that primary assessments will not take place this year and performance tables for this academic year will not be published.

As our children leave school on Friday, it is likely to be a while before we all come back together as a school community. Should you need anything during this time, please do not hesitate to get in touch, we are only a phone call or an email away and will do all that we possibly can to help you.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my leadership team and to all my staff who continue to amaze with their dedication, hard work and professionalism as they serve our children and families with innovation and resourcefulness.

On behalf of all governors and staff I would like to take this opportunity to send you all our very best wishes and we sincerely hope that you all stay safe and well and look after one another at this most difficult of times. You are all in our thoughts.

Yours sincerely,

D. A. Stephens

David Stephens
Executive Headteacher

