



Somerford Primary School

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20th March 2020

Dear Parents

SCHOOL CLOSURE

As you know, we will be closing our doors to most children today. We do this with great sadness. We feel especially sorry for our Year 6 children who will not have their final year of Primary School as expected.

I would like to cover several things in this letter to hope to answer as many of your questions and concerns as I can.

Education at home

Mr Wallace is sending out a letter with full details of our home learning packs and website offer. He will also outline how to communicate with your child's class teacher.

Communication

The office email (office@somerford.dorset.sch.uk) will be monitored daily so this is the best way to contact us should you need to. We will continue to contact you via Marvellous Me, Email and Twitter.

We must urge you to make sure we have your most up to date contact details so that we are able to keep in touch with you.

We will also be keeping in touch by phone so you can ask us any questions then too.

Support

If your child is entitled to FSM, we will continue to offer our 'take away' service between 12:30-1:30pm each school day.

The Foodbank have provided 2 vouchers to each family who are registered for FSM. They are also able to help any family who might be struggling to afford food during the school closure.

The Government has offered a package of financial support to anyone who is struggling. The CAB will be able to share this information with you.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, you can contact the MASH (Multi Agency Support Hub) on 01202 458101.

School Hours

For those children who are still attending school, our opening hours will be 8:30am – 3:30pm daily.

Reopening

As soon as we are told that the nationwide school closures have ended, we will let you know.

Enjoy

Aspire

Achieve

Mental Health

This will be a difficult time for all concerned so we would suggest that you encourage your child to have a routine for the day and to do some work each day of the week. There is a sample daily schedule on the Whole School section of the website home learning page. It is important to have set hours for school work, meals, chores and other daily activities including, where possible, spending time outside. Following a timetable may help the children to stay focused. Do not expect your child to work for 5 hours a day and do allow breaks as necessary. We appreciate that many of you will be juggling supporting your children along with working from home yourselves so make your expectations realistic.

Our brains like to associate different places with different activities because when we enter those places it triggers our brain to work in a particular way. Help children to create their own workspace. If you are not leaving the house, consider which rooms you want to use for which activities and try to stick to it as much as possible. The more you stick to these zones, the more you will start to identify different areas of the house with different activities and it will help them to focus when they need to as well as relaxing when they need to. It's important to have some variation and structure in their day. This can be harder to achieve when they are indoors all the time. Plan when they will do school work and when they will stop work. Stick to that time!

With the rest of their time, a mixture of activities is advisable, for example, playing board games, card games, jigsaws, gardening, cooking together etc. We advise limiting the amount of time that they are on social media and online gaming and would reinforce the message to parents about checking online privacy settings for the games and social apps that your children are using.

It is important that during this time we recognise that many families will be dealing with illness, anxiety and financial concerns. Talk to your children about the situation, do your best to answer as truthfully as possible. If children are 'kept in the dark' that can create more anxiety for them but it's okay if you can't answer everything.

Government Tests

KS1 SATs, KS2 SATs, Y4 Multiplication Test and Y1 Phonics Test have all been cancelled for this year. We await to hear further guidance as to how assessments will be made, particularly for Year 6 pupils.

Breakfast Club

We will sadly not be offering a Breakfast Club during the partial closure.

Once again, thank you for your continued support during this time of uncertainty and unrest. Our thoughts are with you all at this very challenging time.

Best wishes

Helen Frampton

Head teacher