



Hawthorn Primary School

Park Close, Elswick, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6SB

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e-mail admin@hawthorn.newcastle.sch.uk

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following guidance from the Government we will be closing school to the majority of pupils from today, at 1.30pm. We are unable, at this time, to say when school will re-open to all pupils. The most recent advice is to follow these key principles:

- **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
- 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.
- Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents (over 70 years), friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
- Parents should also 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. **This means that where possible keep your children at home, if you go out for exercise avoid mixing in large groups.**
- Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

If it is not possible to have your child/children at home and you feel that, through your work, you fall into the key worker category please contact school ASAP (before 3.30pm today). This will allow us to arrange appropriate levels of staffing.

For all children who are remaining at home during the closure, we have prepared work booklets for pupils to complete at home during the closure. Further suggested activities can be found on our school website (<http://www.hawthorn.newcastle.sch.uk/website>). Look in the Parents tab under the Home Learning section. This will be regularly updated. Keep looking at our Twitter account (@Hawthorn_PS) for messages from teachers and further activities. If you are able, please download the free Seesaw App. Your child will be given instructions and an access code to use the app at home. Parents with children in reception class can continue to use Tapestry. Miss Barron will upload activities onto this weekly.

Please check that you have provided us with your most up-to-date contact details to ensure you receive any correspondence. If you need to provide us with new details, please contact the school office on **0191 273 4237**.

In the first instance, we will be providing packed lunches to all children entitled to FSM, including UFSM (all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2). **Please let school know if you do not need**

this offer. We will be in touch on Monday 23.3.2020 to let you know how you can collect the lunch. If you are currently self-isolating we will try and make arrangements to deliver this to your door.

In the meantime, we will continue to implement additional health protection measures and follow the relevant advice issued by the Department for Education and Public Health England.

You can contact me if needed, out of school hours, on the school email address **(admin@hawthorn.newcastle.sch.uk)** or the school mobile number **07745790467**.

Please do not send your child to school on Monday, unless this has been arranged through me. All staff will not be in school everyday as they have their own families to care for.

Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Dube'.

Jane Dube
Head teacher