

COPPERMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher Mrs Figen Bektaşoğlu
Assistant Headteacher Ms Stephanie Daley

Address Edward Road, Walthamstow E17 6PB
Telephone 020 8520 6267
Website coppermillprimary.co.uk
E-mail school@coppermill.waltham.sch.uk



Learning Together, Achieving Forever

Thursday 19th March 2020

REQUIRED SCHOOL CLOSURE

Dear Parent/s

Due to the recent announcement from the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, that all UK schools must close due to the spread of Coronavirus, we are writing to officially notify you of Coppermill's closure from 3:30pm on Friday 20th March 2020 until further notice.

Last night the government made several announcements regarding schools. Firstly, they have announced that schools, colleges and Early Years settings will be closed to everyone except children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday 23rd March 2020.

The definition of a Key Worker (*at this stage but may need to be reduced to those in red*):

- **clinical staff employed by the NHS (excluding doctors and dentists)**
- teachers, including further education teachers and Early Years/nursery teachers
- **police officers and community support officers in specified forces**
- **frontline police staff (civilians) may also be eligible in some areas**
- **prison officers and some Prison Service staff in prisons in specified areas**
- probation officers (senior or not) and, for intermediate rent only, trainee probation officers
- local authority (LA) or local education authority (LEA) or NHS social workers
- Local authority qualified therapists (including occupational therapists and speech and language therapists)
- Local authority qualified educational psychologists
- Local authority/Local education authority/NHS qualified nursery nurses
- Local authority planners
- Local authority clinical staff
- **uniformed staff, below principal level, in fire and rescue services**
- Connexions personal advisors
- **armed forces personnel and some civilian Ministry of Defence (MoD) personnel (i.e. clinical staff,**
- **MoD police officers and uniformed staff in the Fire and Defence Service), also including some**
- discharged personnel
- Highway Agency traffic officer staff
- LA environmental health officers/practitioner
- **delivery drivers**

Provision for our vulnerable pupils

Vulnerable children are also included in the guidance and these could include those who have a social worker and those with Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP). **Those families who fall under these categories should identify themselves to the school by the end of TODAY (Thursday 19th March) at 3:30pm** by e-mailing school@coppermill.waltham.sch.uk or calling the **school office**. This will be very helpful for us to begin planning for your children for Monday. Once we have a comprehensive list of those who will be attending, we will send a full schedule of the day to those families. I would to reassure you that all safeguarding and health and safety procedures and policies will remain in place as normal.

The government has said that children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care. We know that this new guidance will be difficult for many families, however the government and Public Health England now feel that this measure is needed to protect your families from this outbreak.

Free school meals

To support children eligible for free school meals, schools will be able to purchase meals or vouchers for supermarkets or local shops. Schools will be able to order vouchers directly from supermarkets or shops in their communities to be emailed or printed and posted to families, and they will have their costs covered by the Department for Education. Guidance for schools will be published shortly – once I receive this information we will update our relevant families promptly.

Assessments / tests this academic year

It has also been announced that the government will not go ahead with assessments or tests and they will not be publishing performance tables for this academic year. We know that your children have been working tirelessly to prepare for their upcoming assessments and this may come as a disappointment for many who have worked so hard towards them. We want to assure you that our commitment in preparing your children for secondary school and the next stage of their education remains the same.

Remote learning

Your child's learning is important to us, so we will be e-mailing some home learning resources and ideas for remote learning. The flow of this work over the period of closure will depend on staff health but we will do all we can to support you in continuing your child's education. Tomorrow we will be giving every child a blank exercise book and pencil to take home. If your child is not in school, please feel free to pop in and pick up an exercise book pencil for child – they will be available to collect in the main reception area (please help yourself) until 3:30pm tomorrow.

Enrichment

Unfortunately, all school trips, workshops, events, breakfast club, tea-time club and enrichment clubs are all cancelled during the school closure.

We appreciate your patience with us while we deal with this ever-changing situation. Groupcall texts and e-mails are our main form of communication to parents – please kindly ensure that you routinely check for any school messages. In addition, I will regularly post a personal update on the front page of our website. I do hope you are all coping and remain healthy. Our thoughts are with all of you in our school community.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Figen Bektaşoğlu

Headteacher

