

19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the updated information provided by the government yesterday evening, all schools will close from the end of tomorrow (Friday 20 March 2020).

The guidance also stated that no external exams/SATs will take place this academic year. At present, we are unclear what the alternative will be. The government has stated that pupils will not be disadvantaged in any way.

We are now working on plans to keep the school open from Monday 23 March 2020 for the pupils specified by the government. This was outlined as possibly:

- Pupils with social workers
- Pupils with an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan)
- Pupils who are the children of parents/carers who are key workers (examples given were NHS staff, police and delivery drivers). **For this group, the provision will be available for children of single parents/carers who are key workers or for pupils where both parents/carers are key workers and there is no alternative childcare available. In situations where one parent is a key worker and one is not, the non-key worker will care for their child at home.**

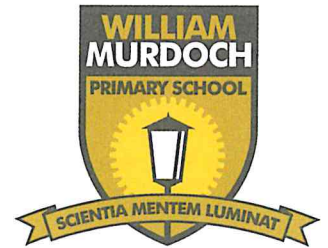
In these unprecedented circumstances, only a small number of staff will be available to supervise pupils, as staff will also need to minimise risks to themselves and their own families.

In order to support us in preparing a plan, please can any parents who intend to send their child into school following the closure on Friday contact the school as soon as possible by emailing enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk.

You will need to provide the following information:

- Name of pupil
- Class
- Year group
- Profession and employer name and contact details of Parent 1
- Profession and employer name and contact details of Parent 2 (if applicable)
- Contact numbers if different from those held on school records

We will need to know the number of pupils who will be in school in order to make appropriate contingency plans, therefore we **require a response by 12.00pm, Friday 20 March 2020**. **Please only email if you fall into the specified categories above and are intending to send your child to school from Monday 23 March 2020.** The government has not yet provided a definition of key worker and therefore by providing us with the details requested above we will be able to check against the criteria once we receive it. Following this check, you will be asked to provide proof of employment status.



Unfortunately, it will not be possible to teach normal lessons. Those pupils eligible to be in school will be supervised by a member of staff (teaching or support) and will access the same materials for self-study as those working at home. It is also important to note that if you request for your child to attend, there is an expectation that your child will attend every day during the closure period.

Please continue to follow social distancing guidance provided by Public Health England. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this challenging time for us all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Singh', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher