

March 19<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parents,

**Re: Coronavirus update – school closure**

Following on from my last update, I am now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories. Please contact the school using the following email:

[keyworker@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:keyworker@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards. We will stay open as usual until 3.10pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.**

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can.

**What we'll continue doing while your child is at home**

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn. We will use the school's VLE to communicate with you and to set work. I will write to you tomorrow with further details of this plan.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

We do not yet know how long the closure will last, however, it is likely to be for some time. The government announced yesterday that public examinations will no longer take place. We are awaiting further details about how students will be certificated. For now my belief is that students in Year 11 and Year 13 should complete the content for each of the courses they are studying. Work to do this will be available on the VLE. Further details about this will appear in tomorrow's letter.

We will do everything we can to continue to support our families through this challenging time. I will be back in touch shortly.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher