



## Eastbrook Primary Academy

Headteacher: Mrs J Sherlock

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Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Temporary Closure of Eastbrook Primary Academy

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that all schools in England will close temporarily for the vast majority of children from end of the day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. This decision has been taken on the advice of medical and scientific experts in order to manage the spread of COVID-19 and relieve pressure on the health system.

From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, education will continue from home for these children. Learning packs are being sent out, and by the end of today these will have been distributed to all year groups. The work in these packs is designed to cover the next two weeks (for EYFS and Key Stage 1 the activities are a little more open-ended). Additional work will be forwarded after the Easter holidays. Staff are working hard to prepare these in a way that will make them accessible to all.

The school will, however, remain open for two specific groups of pupils:

- Category 1 - Those whose parents are defined as key workers (we are currently waiting for a definition from the Department for Education but this is likely to include: parents employed in the NHS, emergency services or elements of the food supply chain).
- Category 2 - Those who are particularly vulnerable.

I would ask that parents who believe they fall into the category of key workers contact the school as soon as possible and no later than 12 noon on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March preferably via e-mail:

[office@eastbrook.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@eastbrook.w-sussex.sch.uk) or by phoning 01273 874050. Please add 'Key Worker' into the email title and include your child's name and year group as well as your details in the message. It is also important that you indicate whether you wish for your child to be educated in school at this time. We will then be in touch with further details of arrangements before Monday.

We will be identifying those students who are in the second category and will be contacting their parents and carers separately. If you believe your child falls into this latter category and you have not heard from us by 12 noon on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March please contact us on the above email address or telephone the school office.

The Government has also decided that no statutory tests will take place this academic year. This includes the Key Stage 1 (Year 2) and Key Stage 2 (Year 6) SATs, the Year 1 Phonics Screening and the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check. For children moving to secondary school we are expecting that teacher assessments will be used to inform Year 7 staff about the attainment of our pupils. We will make sure that we celebrate their fabulous achievements together when the current situation has passed.

Manor Hall Road, Southwick, West Sussex BN42 4NF

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Branston, Burton-upon-Trent, Derby DE13 9TQ.



Over the next few days we will be in a position to update you further and provide additional information on ways we will be able to support your child during this time. In particular we will be finalising how we can ensure that pupils on Free School Meals will receive entitlement to food. We will be doing everything we can to deliver whatever is required of us by Government.

We will continue to update parents on a regular basis with important information as we receive it. We will continue to communicate with you by text and email but please check the school's website regularly for updates.

We are entering times of further uncertainty and our responsibility, as a school, is to join with you all in providing our children with the learning, support and reassurance they will need in the coming weeks. I am incredibly proud of how our children are responding to the situation, their singing this morning reduced me to tears. I also feel blessed that we have such an incredible team working here at Eastbrook. Our community, within and beyond the school gates, is amazing and, by working together, we will overcome whatever lies ahead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Sherlock', with a stylized, cursive script.

Julia Sherlock

Head teacher