

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## **RE: The Cottesloe School Update**

Dear Parent / Carer

As we prepare for closure, our priority still remains the same. We are focused on keeping everyone safe and well whilst learning continues from home. It has been a hectic few days, but I would just like to thank the school and the community for its on-going support. There has been a real sense of community spirit across the school and we have reminded the students as to how important this is as we enter uncertain times. We have received numerous messages of thanks and they have been greatly appreciated.

The government has finally released guidance on maintaining provision for those students deemed as vulnerable or whose parents are key workers. The overarching message is that if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the spread of the virus. We have been asked to stay open for those children who absolutely need to attend.

The guidance from the government is very clear:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. 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.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. 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.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

Mrs Baldwin, Deputy Headteacher has been gathering information and communicating directly with those parents who are deemed critical workers so we can begin to plan care for those that need it. We are following the guidance strictly to ensure that we are doing our duty to prevent the spread of the virus as per the guidance. Our SEN team have also been in touch with those students who have EHCPs to see if they need any additional support.

Staff will be in school on Monday morning for a further planning meeting at which point they will begin to set work. Work will be uploaded to ShowMyHomework on a weekly basis every Monday. As previously stated, we will not be recreating the school timetable, but setting a range of work for each subject.



We are arranging for books to be available in school should parents/students wish to come in and get any that were not collected before the closure. These will be available in the main school hall from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. Please report to reception if you need to collect any books.

I will continue to update you on a regular basis via email, especially regarding major changes or updates as and when they occur.

In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy and look after those around you in the community. Please do update us if you have any news or developments so we can continue to keep our school community safe and together.

Yours sincerely



**Mr S Jones**  
Headteacher

