



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

Dear parents/carers,

**RE – CORONAVIRUS UPDATE – SCHOOL CLOSURE**

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday (20<sup>th</sup> March 2020) 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. Could you please contact myself or Mrs Garvey on 0161 770 5870.

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

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'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by updating our school website, sending out text messages and through updating Twitter.

**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 as below:

- In the first instance, we will be sending out home learning packs with every child. These packs will include worksheets, reading books and stationary to support your child with their learning at home.
- Each class teacher will also update their class pages regularly so that your child can complete work specific to their year group. Go to [www.hortonmill.uk](http://www.hortonmill.uk) and then click on the 'Children' tab followed by the 'Classes' tab.
- We suggest that you try to maintain a regular routine and ensure that your child is able to access learning at home, either through practical activities or through completing online learning and visiting the recommended websites.
- There are a number of recommended educational websites on our school website. Go to [www.hortonmill.co.uk](http://www.hortonmill.co.uk) and then click on the 'Children' tab followed by the 'Useful Websites' tab.
- Our aim is to maintain regular communication with our families through our school text messaging service, school website and Twitter page. If possible, we would like to contact our families by telephone and if it is safe to do so, possibly visit some of our families too.

**N.B.** 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.

### **What we won't be able to go ahead with**

As this is an uncertain time for us all, unfortunately we will not be able to:

- Plan school events such as the Easter Fair and Parents' Meetings.
- Book any school visits for the foreseeable future.
- Undertake national tests such as Y2 and Y6 SATs, the Phonics Check and the Multiplication Tables Check.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so by telephoning on 0161 770 5870 or via email at [info@hortonmill.oldham.sch.uk](mailto:info@hortonmill.oldham.sch.uk)

Remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

We are going to miss seeing our whole school community over the forthcoming weeks and we very much look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Please keep safe and take care of each other.

Warmest wishes,

*Zaira Cook*