

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware Lakeside Primary Academy will sadly be closed from Friday. We will be partially open in line with government arrangements for key workers and vulnerable children.

Late last night the guidance regarding key workers was released, and priority must be given to children classed as vulnerable – definition is: Children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with EHC plans. We are also able to support other children facing social difficulties.

That is why the government has asked parents to **keep their children at home, wherever possible**, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. The **fewer** children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. Schools have been asked to continue to provide care for a **limited** number of children. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And **every child who can be safely cared for at home should be**. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Thank you to those who have already informed us and those on the list that qualify will be called today. If not called, parents should assume the school is closed until further notice for their child as from Monday.

We have previously discussed learning provision for all year groups which is in the process of being distributed. There will be a mixture of IT based resources through chromebooks and paper based packs that are being sent out from school for Key Stage 2. For those people who signed for a school chromebook loan for the children, the chromebooks will be brought home today with the pupils.

We have endeavoured to give as many families access to a chromebook as possible, however, this has not been able to stretch to the Key Stage 1 pupils. Therefore, for the year groups in Key Stage 1, we will send out paper based activities and then any follow up work will be shared on ParentHub.

Although there will be no formal testing for end of Key stage 1 and 2 and no phonics screening, teachers will need to make judgements based on children's attainment throughout the whole year. Therefore, it is still important for children in these year groups to complete activities set for them in their packs or online.

The Lakeside Team is an incredibly special team - our children, parents, staff and governors work supportively together. So to imagine not working alongside each other over the coming weeks does feel incredibly difficult. As a school, we will do everything in our power to follow government guidance relating to how we will continue to support our families after the school closure. The executive team of our academy trust are meeting regularly to plan how this will look across the trust and it is an ever changing picture.

At this stage I would like to thank everyone in our school community for their dedication to our wonderful children. The staff team have worked tirelessly over the last few weeks to get home learning plans in place and have supported our children brilliantly in what has been a difficult and ever changing period. Our team really is a very special one, working within a school that I am extremely proud to be the head of school of. Thank you to our families for the many kind words and emails of support that we have received, this really is very much appreciated.

If you have any questions, please e-mail [admin.lak@ebor.academy](mailto:admin.lak@ebor.academy) and e-mails will be forwarded appropriately.

My best wishes to you all for the coming weeks and I look forward to seeing you all when you return. We will be in touch with any updates and responses to Government announcements as soon as we have anything to share.

Best wishes,

Helen Hayes-Smith  
Head of School