

Spire Junior School

Jawbones Hill, Derby Road, Chesterfield S40 2EN
Telephone: (01246) 234546 Fax: (01246) 275053

Headteacher: Mr D.Shaw

E-mail headteacher@spire-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk
Website www.spirejunior.co.uk



16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our school community, along with many others, is entering a period of prolonged uncertainty associated with the spread of the Coronavirus.

As I am sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a complex and rapidly changing situation. Our priority will always be the health, safety and wellbeing of the pupils and staff in our school. Now more than ever, this remains our primary focus. Already in school we have taken measures such as:

- Reminding children about the importance of hand washing and showing them how this should be carried out.
- Multiple daily cleaning of frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, light switches and keypads.

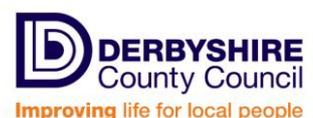
We are following official advice from the government and the NHS. This advice is being added to on a daily basis and we are monitoring and responding to that as it is published. This official advice will underpin all the actions we take. Following the Prime Minister's public health statement on Coronavirus on 12th March, you can find all the latest information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topicalevents/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

As it stands, there is no indication that schools in England will be closing. In fact, we would only close if instructed to do so by Public Health England and the Local Authority. However, we have already put contingency plans in place should we be directed to close.

These are:

- Each year group has had work packs prepared, which will to be sent home (and will also be available to download on our website if we close).
- Packs will contain English, Maths and Topic work.
- All children will take 2 reading books home.



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- All children will continue to have access to TT Rockstars.
- Extra published work books have been purchased for Y6.
- Y6 will also have access to a SATs online revision programme.

In the event of a school closure staff will still be working and will provide updates via ParentMail as necessary. If you have any queries during this period you can contact me via email headteacher@spire-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk and I can ensure a response from the appropriate person. I will aim to ring every household during any period of closure to check how things are and if we can help / support in any way.

In addition to this:

- Gail to have school mobile Tel: 07983 634675 and if you require any Early Help or support from our pastoral team you can contact her during the hours of 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Both Gail and Mrs Boulton will contact vulnerable families during closure to offer support.
- Each class teacher will ring once a week to offer support / check in with parents.

As 'social distancing' measures have begun across the country I have made the following decisions:

- Parents evenings (scheduled for 31st March, 1st April and 2nd April) are cancelled. Instead we will send home the completed pupil progress trackers along with a teacher comment and target for your child electronically via ParentMail.
- We will also postpone the Easter Disco scheduled for Monday 30th March.

Information for Parents - Q and A

If my child is sneezing or coughing, should they stay off school?

Yes, the official guidance is that any child with newly developed symptoms such as a cough or a raised temperature (37.8 degrees and above) should stay off school for seven days.

How will I be informed of the need to close?

If our school has to close we will inform you via ParentMail, our website and our social media sites.



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How can I best communicate with the school if it is closed?

Please email me headteacher@spire-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk or ring Gail on the school mobile between the hours of 9a.m. - 3 p.m. on Tel: 07983 634675.

At this difficult time, I would like to send my very best wishes to you all. As a local community I would urge you all to help each other as much as possible. The community around Spire have always rallied around each other in difficult times and I am sure Spire's community will rise to the current challenge and become stronger for it.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Shaw
Headteacher

