

CANON BURROWS C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

Tameside Education Committee
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Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm sure you have already seen yesterday evening's announcement from the Secretary of State.

Further to this announcement yesterday evening, schools as providers of education will be closed 'for the foreseeable future'. Canon Burrows will 'close' at 3.10pm on Friday 20th March. We will ensure that work is set for your children during the time the school is closed, this will be available on the 'home learning' page of the school website, and we will ensure that we keep in regular contact with you via messages on the website, email and twitter.

Arguing with your children to do work is not what anyone needs right now. If the children are not feeling up to the work set, cuddle up together and read, read, read. Take turns reading. Read them your favourite novel. Do a puzzle. Build a fort. Bake. Get in the garden and make an insect hotel. Watch TV together. Paint. Get out the Lego and build together. Set up a tent in your living room and camp out. Look at photos of when you were a kid. In other words... Don't stress about them forgetting. Don't stress about homeschooling them. Just spend time together. Your kids won't learn much if they're feeling stressed. Though this is a scary time, it could very well be a time they remember as the best time in their life.

The schools have been asked to play a different and vital role in the national effort in tackling the coronavirus. From Monday, schools are being asked to open to provide care for vulnerable pupils and those whose parents or carers are key workers. The Secretary of State is clear: this is an entirely different role for schools and school staff. It is primarily about care, not education. The Government have indicated that schools are to remain open for the 'most vulnerable' children and for the children of key workers. It has not been clarified who will be in these categories yet but I am assuming this will include NHS staff, police and delivery drivers who need to be able to go to work. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans.

A full list of key worker categories will be published by the Cabinet Office today. Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care.

In order to help us plan for families that consider themselves to be in these categories (although I appreciate it has not been clarified yet) and whether you feel that your children should remain in school during this closure period, please email Keyworkers@canonburrows.co.uk with details why you think your child or children may be eligible for this. We will then contact you when we know more information about how this will work.

If your child is eligible for free school meals we will ensure they still receive this provision. As soon as I know how this will be done I will let those families know.



Thank you for all your support at this difficult time. Your support and patience has been very much appreciated by all of our staff.

Please keep safe. Follow the social distancing guidance and advice that is being put into place and most importantly take care of yourself and your families/friends. I wish it was possible to hug you all and let you know how much I care about each and every one of you. I will still be here throughout this time and I urge you to contact me if needs be.

Thank you,

Miss Fildes