



Whitstable Junior School

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Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus Update- School Closure

Following yesterday's announcement, you will probably all be aware, that for the vast majority of children, all schools in England will close at 3:15pm on Friday 20th March. WJS will therefore be closed in exactly the same way from Monday 23rd March for the foreseeable future.

Later today, I will be writing to you to ask for an urgent response regarding those parents/carers who work in the key workers' categories the statement referred to, as we do not hold that information in school. **But you will only need to respond if you are a parent who requires school to be open for you to continue to work, and only if you wish your child/children to come to school because you have no alternative.** I say this because the objective of closing schools for the vast majority is to keep the number of people in schools as small as possible to lessen risks.

We have not yet been told what the categories are, but have been promised the cabinet office will send us a list today! Once we receive this, then we will send an email outlining how we intend to gather this information. The response time will be short. I am sorry about this but we need to try and organise arrangements for Monday with very little time.

For those of you concerned about home learning, please take a look at the school website, which has masses of links on, and we will be updating it throughout the day with activities. It is a work in progress. We are currently setting up an online learning platform where we hope to be able to provide Google Classrooms. More information regarding this will follow when we have it.

The staff have been amazing at this difficult time and likewise, despite all the strain and worries for you as parents, many of you have taken the time to thank us for our emails or simply to check that we are ok. Your kind words are very much appreciated.

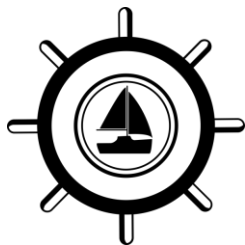
This community has really pulled together; let us continue in this spirit, in these uncertain times. We are always here to help you and your families, be reassured. Any worries, just ask. I have no doubt that we will rise to another difficult challenge, and the current fog will clear eventually. I will continue to update you as I receive further information myself.

Take care all,

AMKnoue

Annie Knoue
Headteacher





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