



19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my last update, I am now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday 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) where **both** parents are key workers 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. Please contact us by e-mail: office@christchurch-burton.staffs.sch.uk with your child/children's name, class and any parental occupations. We will be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this applies to.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday 23rd March 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 putting this information on our school website, in the newsletter section under the 'Life at Christ Church' tab and we will send you a text message to notify you when new information is being posted.

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we will continue to help your child to learn. Schoolwork has been set for the children via the learning platform on the school website: <https://www.christchurch-burton.staffs.sch.uk/> (BGfL login details/passwords have been sent home with your child so you can access this from home)

- From the j2launch screen, please click on your child's 'Weekly Home Learning' tab. This is the work to be completed as a priority unless your child is ill. If you have informed us that your child does not have access to technology, then your child will receive a pack of paper-based activities.
- In addition to the work set via the learning platform, children will be sent home with extra reading books. We would ask that your child reads every day for at least 15-30 minutes – either their school reading book or use the learning platform link for a free 'e-book'. <https://www.getepic.com/app/> (Sign in as a student using the classroom sign in code: **uji4382**)
- There are hundreds of fiction and non-fiction reads available to borrow for free from Burton Library through their e-book and e-audio service: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Libraries/Library-services/eLibrary/eLibrary.aspx> .

A Staffordshire Library card and a PIN are needed to access all the above but if pupils do not have these then they can join online at: <https://www.yourlibcat.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/arena/self-registration>

- We also ask that each child completes 30 minutes of exercise each day (Look at 'Exercise Links on the Learning Platform)
- Children should continue to practise their times tables using the 'TTRockstars' site as well as other relevant Maths activities using 'Mathletics'.
- Please keep any evidence of all of these completed activities in the scrapbook provided (e.g. take a photo of the different exercises your child has been doing and a record of which books/ pages they have read.

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If your child completes all of the work set and requires additional learning, they can access the work packs on the twinkl website at the following links:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/how-to-utilise-twinkl-during-the-coronavirus-shutdown-a-guide-for-parents> and access the free year group specific home learning packs, which can be found at:

- FS2: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/eyfs-school-closure-home-learning-resource-pack-t-tp-2549362>
- Y1: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/year-1-school-closure-home-learning-resource-pack-t-e-2549910>
- Y2: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/year-2-school-closure-home-learning-resource-pack-t-e-2549911>
- Y3: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/year-3-school-closure-home-learning-resource-pack-t-e-2549912>
- Y4: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/year-4-school-closure-home-learning-resource-pack-t-e-2549913>
- Y5: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/year-5-school-closure-home-learning-resource-pack-t-e-2549914>
- Y6: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/year-6-school-closure-home-learning-resource-pack-t-e-2549915>

Other useful websites for distance learning

<http://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/>
<http://www.spellingshed.com/>
<http://www.mathshed.com/>
<https://plprimarystars.com/>
<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/kids-zone/>
<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/7-11>
<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/5-7>
<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/3-5>
<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/welcome-back/for-home/reading-owl/k>

How will I be able to contact school during this period of closure?

Should you have any questions or queries, please email them to office@christchurch-burton.staffs.sch.uk. The office team will then be able to either answer these matters directly or forward them on to the relevant staff. We will then email you back as soon as we are able to. Throughout the closure, the school will be following all government guidelines, and it would be helpful if you could avoid using this email for anything other than emergencies or queries relating to your child's work. 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

All school trips, including the Y5 residential to Laches Wood, will be cancelled until further notice and we will contact parents of the affected children regarding possible future plans/refunds. Breakfast Club will no longer be running and any clubs will be cancelled. As stated by the Government yesterday, there will also be **no SATs** taking place this year.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience 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 is far from ideal, but we will continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops. And remember, if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](https://www.nhs.uk/111). We all know that this is a challenging and unprecedented situation and I would like to thank you all for your patience and support during this very difficult period. Thank you once again for your continued support and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. V Anderson and the Christ Church team

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