

18 March 2020

Dear Parent

As you will be aware, the Government has this afternoon announced the closure of all schools in England from the end of Friday 20 March due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Our school premises will continue as normal tomorrow and Friday. The Easter term will still end on 27th March 2020 and we are planning on summer term commencing as previously advised on 21st April 2020, whether physically at school or virtually.

We are exploring the means by which we could offer supervised care for the children of key workers. Please let me know tomorrow Thursday 19 March if you feel you may fall into this category and we will confirm details shortly, please email me direct at jessica.harris@polamschool.co.uk

I appreciate this news is unsettling but want to reassure you of the steps we are taking to provide support for our students and parents during the closure. As you know, we've been working closely with our Cognita colleagues in Asia, where some countries have had mandatory school closures for many weeks and also more recently in Spain and Switzerland. Our plan for Polam School and Nursery is informed by the practice they've put in place and we are confident we have an effective strategy for our children to continue learning. We have recently refreshed the digital technology in our school and conducted training in its use which means our teaching staff are well equipped to make the transition to digital learning for your child.

Your child's class teacher or key worker will be in touch on Monday with specific details about their online learning programme, which will be delivered via Purple Mash and Mini Mash and for our younger children in nursery we will ask you to capture learning via Interactive learning Diary (ILD). Clearly this will be a new way of working and learning for us all and we expect to adapt the programme as we go.

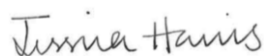
We appreciate that there will be an impact on parents and our plan includes advice for you. With that in mind, our Group Wellbeing Director Beth Kerr has prepared the attached 'Be Well Tips' for parents on supporting your child during a school closure.

Thank you in advance for your support at this challenging time. Our teachers have been preparing well for the possibility of a closure. All our efforts are concentrated on two priorities: maintaining the wellbeing of our children and staff and ensuring the continuity of their education in the days or weeks to come. Team Polam has, as ever, been incredible with staff continuing to be in school every day to care for your children with their usual dedication during uncertain and challenging times. I know you will all join me in saying a huge thank you to each and every one of them.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude on behalf of myself and the whole Polam team here for your unwavering support whilst we have been dealing with this ever changing situation over the past couple of weeks. As a parent body we could not have asked for more – many thanks for your offers of help and for your concern for us as a staff while we have negotiated this extraordinary period. We will continue to communicate closely with you throughout the closure and will update you as soon as we have more information regarding when school will reopen.

All teachers and key workers will be on their school email address and will be contactable directly. We will continue to communicate closely with you throughout the closure and will update as soon as we have more information. Please do not hesitate to contact me personally at jessica.harris@polamschool.co.uk if you have any further questions.

Kind regards



Jessica Harris
Headteacher