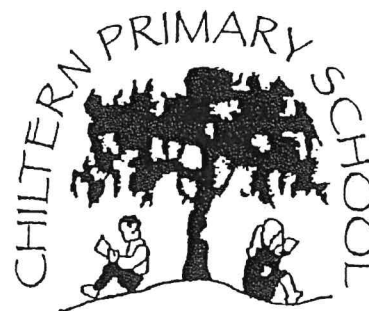


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1 April 2020

Closure Update

Dear Parents/ Guardians

As we come towards the end of our second week of closure, these are just a few updates for you as we head in to what would ordinarily be our Easter break:

- The numbers of pupils accessing child care with us has continued to vary from 6 – 21 daily
- We have decided not to take Millway up on their offer to be a central hub for the Easter break; it is a strange enough situation as it is for the children, families and staff; changing the venue might add even more worries at this time. Plus, it is potentially another group of children and adults coming into contact with each other, just as the country heads towards what could be a peak in cases
- We will not rule out this option in coming weeks if we have low numbers of staff or pupils, but we will give you notice if this does happen as we intend to provide childcare for as long as it's needed to support our frontline workers (and we have enough staff to do so)
- The **childcare days will be a little shorter over the Easter break - 8.45AM – 3.15PM**. Now we have booked the extra hours with AMEY, cutting 15 minutes off the start and end of the length of the school day allows them to use site supervisors to unlock and lock across other schools in our area too. I know many attending arrive after 8.30am anyway and collect their children by 3pm, so this slight change should not be a problem. The site will be unlocked by 8.30am so you can still be ready to enter the hall doors – thank you
- Our available staff are working one week on and at least 2 weeks off, where possible; this is sustainable at the moment and allows time to monitor for signs and symptoms in between
- We still **urge families to stay together at home** if at all possible at this time, school should be a last resort as there is a high potential for social mixing; undermining efforts to reduce social contact
- The school office will still be manned from 8.30am to 3.30pm daily (8.45am to 3.15pm over Easter) as office staff have created a rota over the next 6 weeks, should it be needed
- The announcement on Tuesday for **Free School Meals (FSM) vouchers** to be issued centrally is very welcome. We have provided families with a gift card for this first fortnight of closures, if they have requested it, so to have a coordinated response is fairer for all
- The amount the Government have offered all FSM families is significantly higher than it would normally be because they understand some basic supplies are more expensive at this time - £15/ week per child is what's expected
- This voucher is likely to be accessed on your phone, as a barcode to be scanned at the checkout – but until we get finer details we can't say for sure
- The nominated FSM voucher provider is Edenred and we are awaiting details from them
- Sainsbury's, Tesco, M & S, Asda, Morrisons and Waitrose are all on board so far, with the Government expecting more stores to join
- **This is not for all EYFS, Y1 and Y2 Universal FSM**, but those families claiming certain tax credits who would have applied on line via the LA website

- **If you believe you may be eligible for FSM, go onto the LA website/ FSM** and complete the registration: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals
- It will tell you there and then if you are eligible. If you are, you will have to wait until our school lists are updated to access the vouchers. This may take some time during the current climate but **email Anna Prati if you do pass the eligibility check** as she can then try to speed up the LA processes: APrati@chiltern.northants.sch.uk
- Linked to the above, we have been made aware of a **scam company who have approached families about FSM, claiming to be from HMG0V** – and asking for bank details to transfer money across. **Never give your bank details out.** The e-voucher scheme will come through school, using the phone numbers or emails you have provided already
- The Government's Department for Education have set up a free **Coronavirus Helpline for anyone who needs it: 08000 468 687**
- The LA has re-shared its number if you have any concerns or queries: **0300 126 1000**
- We will start to process **refunds on any breakfast or afterschool club bookings** not used during this invoice period when Mrs Britten is back in school at the end of April. We believe monies can be refunded through ParentPay – thank you for your patience
- As I have shared before, the school will **definitely be closed for the extended Easter weekend** (10-13 April), but open only for the most critical key worker family children the other 8 days – please, if your children can stay at home during what would have been a holiday anyway, try to do that
- I have attached **on-line music ideas from NPAT** (Northampton Performing Arts Trust), and a character quiz from the Library Service - we thank them for these ideas
- I will forward a request from **The Hope Centre**. We know these are challenging times for us all but any help you could offer this service, on top of your generosity for Harvest, would be appreciated
- Staff should be adding activities to the learning platforms either side of Easter, but a broad range of resources has been provided by Cambridge local authority; they have shared a **comprehensive pack of primary resources**: www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/home-learning
- This link is from the well-renowned ThirdSpace and covers Maths themes: <https://tsl-static.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets/Parents+Maths+Hub.pdf>
- A free book explaining Covid-19 and social distancing in a child friendly manner has been shared today: <https://www.flipsnack.com/CSKidsBooks/what-s-going-on.html> So many children are feeling worried and anxious right now, this could help alleviate some of their fears. It has received some wonderful feedback and helps explore the emotional side of the changes
- For Harry Potter fans, JK Rowling has launched Harry Potter At Home: <https://www.wizardingworld.com/news/introducing-hp-at-home-just-create-an-account!>
- To aid some relaxation for you and your child, the following link explores mindfulness: <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdKMJRM1hY6HtrENZVmPmHA>
- Whilst at home, and not on a rota for childcare, teachers are writing reports on each child – based on their progress so far this year. We anticipate these reports will be issued at the start of June 2020, if children are not back in school
- Our new school website continues to take shape and from 3 April, the first stages should be available to view; being added to weekly as documents are transferred over
- We will continue to respond to any directives issued and update you accordingly.

We send you all, our best wishes, Take care,

Penny Howell

Head Teacher