



Northway Primary and Nursery School

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Headteacher: Mr MJ Hargreaves BEd (Hons) NPQH

Deputy: Mrs K Lightfoot BEd (Hons)

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Re: School Closure – COVID-19

Thank you for your patience at this time of minute-by-minute updates. During his nightly press conference, the Prime Minister announced that the COVID-19 strategy now included the closure of all schools within England. Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales had already made the same decision and designated until September. English Schools are to be closed from the afternoon of Friday 20th March, 'until further notice'.

The communication regarding this closure has not been very forthcoming. This has got to be related to decisions being made at very short notice from Parliament. We were informed by Rt Hn Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education) that The Cabinet Office would provide an update today.

On Friday 20th March, children can be collected at School **from 1.30pm until 3.20pm** when the school will officially close. Please choose the time that best suits your work pattern to collect your child. There will be no afterschool provision on Friday. This staggered closure will give you more flexibility (as I know many parents are keen to have children at home as early as possible) and avoid unnecessary social gathering on the playground.

Nursery

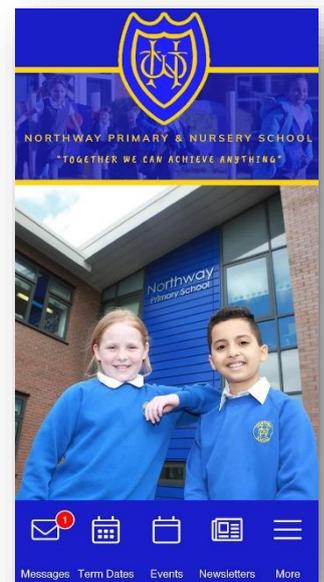
Afternoon Nursery will not take place on Friday 20th March, their last session is Thursday.

Communication

During our closure **it is ESSENTIAL that parents download and ACTIVATE our ParentAPP if they haven't already. All communication will be given directly to all Northway APP users.** Without this app you will not be as informed or receive important messages. If you have not activated your request from school, please speak to Miss Sultan in our Office before the close of day on Friday. Mrs Scott has telephoned most inactive users today to advise on the importance of connecting with us. Once activated, you can add additional users.

Email

If you wish to communicate directly with Northway during our enforced closure, we have a new email address: closure@northway.liverpool.sch.uk. This is not for general messages but for anything related to the closure, safeguarding or important questions. A member of the team will be checking this email daily and will endeavour to answer your enquiry as soon as is possible. This will depend on the health and personal situation of the members of staff appointed to manage this email.



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All Learners, All valued, All achieving...All the time



Safeguarding

As a school we still have a duty of care in regard to Safeguarding. If you have any Safeguarding concerns during the closure, please remember outside agencies, such as NSPCC and Childline are available. You will also find more support networks on our school website. Our Designated Safeguarding Officer may give families a telephone call each week to check in to offer families telephone support – please do not be surprised or offended, this is just a courtesy ‘check-in’.

Colomendy

Colomendy has now been re-arranged for October 2020. We realise the children will be in Year 5 when they go on the residential but we wanted to select a date when we could be almost certain it would go ahead. Payment has all been given to Kingswood so they will simply transfer the date and activities across.

Home learning

This morning the children were shown their Home Learning Packs that are all uploaded to SeeSaw. Staff have provided digital learning tasks that are accessible using your SeeSaw username and passwords. They are attached to the children’s personal profile, not the parent profile. This allows tasks to be set for individuals. There are academic activities but also Mental Health and Wellbeing exercises too, so you can allow children time to top-up their wellbeing as well as curriculum learning. Lots of the activities can be completed as a family which will make it fun for all. “All learners, all valued, all achieving...all the time!”

Within SeeSaw there is the capacity for parents to communicate with teachers. Staff will be busy sharing work with your children but may not be able to answer your message immediately. Regularity of checking messages will depend on the health and availability of the staff (who may have been called to work elsewhere). Please be patient if your answer does not come back as quickly as you would want. I have also asked staff to remember their own wellbeing and not to check messages after normal school hours.

Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) for Year 2 and Year 6

The Government has announced SATs will not be taking place this year. Teachers will be told how to report on the academic achievements of its pupils in due course. I want to acknowledge just how hard our children have worked this year and for many they will be disappointed at not being able to showcase their knowledge during this rite of passage – SATs. I am so proud of our pupils and the way they have taken on the challenges set in Year 2 and Year 6, please do pass this same message on to them.

Year 6

We are uncertain when school will re-open, as currently we have been told ‘until further notice’. I spoke with both Year 6 classes this morning and explained sensitively that this *could* potentially be their last couple of days within school ‘formally’ as Year 6. Home learning continues as does the opportunity for children to speak and SeeSaw each other but these two days need to be very special for them in recognition of who they are and what they have achieved. I reassured the children that we would keep them informed about any transition events and also invite them back into school if school does not open before the summer, so they can have some sort of official event within school together. This is a ‘wait and see’ in case schools do open earlier so we can conclude the year together.

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Free School Meals

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, Liverpool City Council are operating a scheme where you are able to collect a voucher from any of the Children's Centres. Our nearest Children's Centre is Wavertree (by the Aquatic Centre) or at Rudston School site. Parents will be issued with a letter from school; this should be taken to the Children's Centre along with photographic ID to receive the voucher. More details will be given in the individual letter.

Keyworker provision

The Government has tasked Local Authorities to provide settings for Key Worker children, vulnerable and EHCP pupils to access. The City Council are still working on this strategy. We have been informed this will take place at various hubs across the city. We will inform you once we have received the plan.

And finally...

I want to thank you for all your support over these past few weeks, especially during this time of increasing worry and uncertainty. Even during these difficult times, there is always **hope**. Being part of such a strong community such as Northway adds hope to the situation. Please do keep in touch with school friends using whatever method suits your personal situation. I know the children will really appreciate that as much as you as parents.

Our School Values alongside Respect are: Trust, Perseverance, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness and Hope. Our community has shown trust, perseverance, compassion, courage and hope in bucket loads this past few weeks. If we all continue to persevere, be courageous and act with compassion to those who need our help; we will all be able to keep that inner hope. Just remember it is Northway, where together we can achieve anything. Northway setting the standard for the rest of the country.

Please look after each other, keep washing those hands(!) and we very much look forward to seeing you when this current situation has run its course.

Yours sincerely,

MJ Hargreaves
Headteacher

email: closure@northway.liverpool.sch.uk

Have you downloaded and activated your ParentAPP? Please check it is working before tomorrow.

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SeeSaw guide for Families

While our school is closed, we will use Seesaw for home learning. Seesaw helps us work together to provide students with meaningful learning experiences at home.

We'll use Seesaw to share learning activities and resources, capture your child's learning, and communicate about student progress and needs.

Below are steps for setting up Seesaw at home and additional resources to help you support your child during this transition.

Set up your child in the Seesaw Class App:

1. For devices like tablets or phones, download the **Seesaw Class App**
For laptop or desktop computers, **go to app.seesaw.me**
2. Click **I'm a Student**
3. We provided home learning codes in your home learning books:
Enter the text code or scan the QR code