

Thursday, 19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid-19 (Coronavirus)-school closure

Following on from my last update, I'm 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) and children with certain needs from Monday onwards, including through the Easter holiday.

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 and you would want them to be in school. Please email secretary@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk giving your child's name and tutor group. We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to and what the arrangements will be. We expect this to be tomorrow.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday 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 will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by email, text message, the school website and Facebook. Please can I also urge you to take full notice of advice regarding **social distancing**. This decision has been made to protect the health of the most vulnerable in society. Guidance on social distancing can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

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

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn. All students have now been given a work pack which includes guidance on how we will be supporting them. In summary this will:

- Be set by teachers via Class Charts
- Make use of work provided in packs in Years 10 and 11 or be largely online based for those in Years 7, 8 and 9

Our school website www.poltairschool.co.uk includes details of online platforms and how to log in to these.

We expect our parents and carers to support at home with maintaining a routine for learning as this will significantly help your child when they are able to return to school and to reduce anxieties that they will undoubtedly have whilst being absent from school.

Staff emails have been included within work packs and can also be found on the school website. Please contact your child's teacher if you require any further guidance on the work set.

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.

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's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to ask any further questions or to share concerns that you think we can help with, please don't hesitate to do so via secretary@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C White', written over a faint horizontal line.

Claire White
Deputy Headteacher