



20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

A decision has been made by the Government to close schools in England. As a result, our school will close on Friday 20th March at the end of the school day until further notice.

We are providing work on Firefly for all classes. Pupils should aim to complete the 5 lessons each day that match their school timetable. At the end of each lesson there will be a short online activity that allows teachers to monitor whether pupils are completing the work. Please ensure your child takes this work seriously. We may be off school for a considerable period of time and it is important they don't fall behind. Firefly also provides opportunities for pupils to safely leave messages for teachers about their work.

We will be making provision for the children of key workers to continue to attend school. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Swanshurst School

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www.swanshurst.org

Headteacher: Debbie James



Public safety and national security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

Please take the time to consider whether the sections below are relevant to you. You can respond to a text message we will send shortly or by contacting pastoral@swans.bham.sch.uk or phoning the school office.

1. If your child does not have internet access on their computer or phone and therefore can't access Firefly we will be compiling packs of printed resources or providing laptops. **Please respond if your child will be unable to access Firefly at home.**
2. If your daughter normally receives free school meals the government is beginning to work on a system to make food vouchers available. However, until this happens we will offer a free packed lunch to pupils currently on free school meals. Lunches will be available for collection from the hub reception area between 11 and 1 every day. **Please respond if you would like your child to collect a free school meal each day.**
3. **Please respond if you are employed in a key worker role and would like your child to continue to attend school.**

If you have any further questions, please get in touch with your daughter's head of year or a member of leadership team.

This is a difficult time for everyone. Thank you for continuing to support us.

Yours sincerely,

Debbie James
Headteacher