

Millbrook Junior School

Churchill Way, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 5DP

<http://www.millbrookjuniors.co.uk/>

01536 517049



Class Assemblies

These will no longer be going ahead. You will be notified when we start running these again.

Dear Parents/Carers

Please read this newsletter to update you on what is happening in our school with regard to the government announcements about schools.

Mrs Danielle Warren

School Closure

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This is why the government has closed schools and is asking you to keep your children at home. **Schools should only remain open for those children who absolutely need to attend.** Schools will only remain safe for children if few children attend. The fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk of the virus spreading and infecting vulnerable individuals in our wider society.

The government has asked that you follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely on childcare from those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

School Closure

The school is now closed and will not reopen until further notice.

Only children who have been offered a place within our reduced provision will be able to attend school on Monday 23rd March 2020.

Premier Sport will continue to offer before and after school club for any child who has been offered a place within our reduced provision. You will need to continue to book your place in the normal way.

School is now closed and will not reopen until further notice. On Thursday, we sent out a message asking you to contact us if you felt you were a key worker. We have spent today compiling that list and checking against the guidance released by the government this morning. If we feel you fit the criteria, you will have been contacted directly and been offered a place within the reduced provision. If your child is classed as a vulnerable child or has an EHCP, then you will have also been contacted to be offered a place within the reduced provision. **If you have not been contacted to be offered a place, you must not come to the school on Monday.**

If, after reading this, you feel you should be offered a place within the reduced provision, then you should contact the school and your role will be reviewed. You should confirm with your employer that based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of the essential public service they offer. You may be asked for evidence of this. **You must not send your child into school until you have been contacted by us and offered provision.**

We can only continue to operate while we have safe levels of staff to do so. If we need to close, you will be contacted and your children will be directed to another local school in the area. We are seeking advice on which that school might be.

Children Attending the Reduced Provision

Children are able to attend the provision flexibly. We would ask that if you have a place, you only use it on the days and times that you are working to avoid any unnecessary risk to your child. You will be asked to sign your child in and out of school.

We will continue to send home any children who show any symptoms. If your child shows signs of a **new continuous cough and/or high temperature**, they will be taken to our isolation area and we will contact you to ask you to pick them up. Advice from Public Health England is as follows:

'If you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.'

You will be asked to keep your child off for 14 days and advised that your household should self-isolate for 14 days. Please help us to keep everyone safe by making sure you follow this advice.

Keeping in Contact

Even though the school is closed, we will continue to keep in touch with you via schoolcomms. If you need to contact us, you can email in through the contact page on the website and your query will be directed to the relevant person, or you can phone the school during normal school office hours.

Learning

While your child is away from school, we would encourage you to try to keep up their learning as best you can. In order to help you with this, we will be sending you a weekly email outlining learning tasks the children can complete. Your child will have been sent home with additional reading books and their Power maths book and we would encourage your child to complete these. While the school is closed, children are

still able to quiz at home and access My Maths and Linguascope. All the links for these are on the school website, and passwords and usernames are in your child's planner.

Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to free school meals, you will receive a voucher to enable you to purchase food for your child's lunches. This applies to all children who are entitled to free school meals. If your child is attending the reduced provision over the lunch period, you will be expected to provide them with a lunch. We will contact you next week to let you know how to collect your voucher.

Further Guidance

Key worker list and guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Closure of educational settings information for Parents and Carers - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Guidance on social distancing - <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>

Thank you

Thank you all for your patience during this ever changing situation. We recognise that this is a very difficult situation for everyone but this is an essential part of our national effort to combat this virus. We appreciate your support.