



St Leonard's C.E. Primary School

"Nurturing Faith and Inspiring Success"

Southwark Diocesan
Board of Education
Multi-Academy Trust



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Headteacher: Mr Simon Jackson BAQTS (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Laura Akhtar BA(Hons) PGCE

19th March 2020

School Closure

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you. He will never leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8

To all within our school community,

You will no doubt be aware of the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Education that schools are to close from tomorrow afternoon and will largely remain closed until further notice to the vast majority of pupils.

A phrase I've heard a lot over the past few weeks is, "*These are unprecedented times.*" This may be true for some countries and for some schools, but it is most definitely not the case for our United Kingdom or for this school. Some 10 million soldiers died in World War One – 30,000 in one hour alone in 1916. 37 former staff and pupils of this school lost their lives. As such, we really need to keep a sense of perspective. This is a sad time; an extraordinary time – but it is *our time* and we need to step up and be the teachers and parents our children need.

Set out below is some information which I hope you will find useful. In attempting this, I know that each piece of information will only lead to another question which needs answering. Welcome to my world!

Children of Key Workers

You may have heard that the government wish to assist key workers by making some provision available in schools for their children. However, they did not specify who these workers were or when this provision could begin. Also, in Parliament's evening session, the Education Secretary stated that these pupils would not necessarily be attending their own school. At this time, I simply do not have any information about how this may be arranged. As soon as I do, I will inform you immediately. At the time of writing though, this school will definitely be closed to all pupils until otherwise stated.

Lunches for children receiving free school meals

Prior to last night, I had already been in talks with our catering provider about the possibility of preparing something for these children. Given last night's government statement, it is best that I wait for further instruction regarding this as it appears that a national scheme is going to be implemented. Naturally, we do want to ensure that these children are provided for.

Remote Learning

Given the unspecified duration of school closure, my focus is ensuring that children are taught rather than occupied. Teaching requires planning...and planning takes time. As such, at the beginning of next week, we will parentmail links to certain appropriate websites which may keep your children engaged. However, **from Monday 20th April** when the summer term begins, planned teaching and learning activities created by our teachers will be available to access via the blogs on the school's website. **We will encourage children to log on at 09:30 each morning and again at 2:30pm each afternoon.**



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The morning session will involve something around a curriculum area such as English, Maths or IPC. There will be some standard everyday tasks such as times tables. The afternoon session will involve listening to or seeing a story being read by their teacher. That way, children get to see their teacher every day. Those of us old enough to remember *Jackanory* or (even older) *Listen with Mother* can imagine how this will feel.

Parents who have more than one child but who don't have access to multiple devices at home – please don't worry. The challenges set will be carefully planned to cater for children who may have missed a session.

At the moment, our blogs are read only so we are now going to begin the process of making it possible for every child to comment on posts so that there is some interaction between teachers and pupils.

You will receive a link via parentmail to a video which will show you how to access these materials, so please don't worry if you're scared of technology!

Contact Details & Parentmail

It is essential that we have all of your correct telephone and email contact details for all of this to work. Please contact the office if you are unsure about the details we hold.

Finally for now...

I just want to pay tribute to our magnificent team of staff. Every class taught by their teacher every day during this period. Each adult has been working to support each other and care for the children. Having 27 years in the profession, I've never worked with such an outstanding team of dedicated, talented professionals. You need to know that we are all absolutely devastated by this need for closure. However, we accept it and it does not diminish in the slightest our resolve to do what is best for your children.

I would also like to thank all of you for your understanding, your support, encouragement and trust. Our school has had much higher levels of attendance than other local schools which is an indication of the unique spirit which lies within St Leonard's.

I anticipate further regular announcements from the government. Subsequently, I will regularly update you. In wishing you the best of health during this time I really look forward to opening the gates and welcoming you all back as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Mr Simon Jackson

Head Teacher

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33



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