



Toner Avenue School

Tradition Achievement Success

Johnston Avenue Hebburn Tyne & Wear NE31 2LJ

Tel: 0191

3524

Toneravenue.uk

Please read all of the letter below immediately.

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils.

Dear Parents / Carers,

This is the hardest letter I have ever written.

As I am sure that you are aware, the government addressed the nation yesterday regarding the closure of schools in England. 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. The Secretary of State is clear: this is an entirely different role for schools and school staff. It is primarily about care, not education.

What if only one parent or carer is a key worker?

If one parent is a key worker, the government will expect the other parent to have their child at home. Single parents who are key workers will obviously be entitled to a school place.

Please respect that school has to follow these guidelines and we kindly ask you not to put the school in a difficult position.

What do you do now?

The government was clear that we should remain open for these key workers and the vulnerable children, should parents require a place. If you feel that all primary carers fall into the key worker group **and you wish your child to remain at school, please contact the school office by Friday lunchtime** to give us enough time to organise staffing. If your child has an Educational Health and Care Plan or has open involvement with social services then also contact the office if you wish your child to continue to attend school.

Staffing

Your child may not be looked after by a teacher if we do not have enough available. I do think that I need to reiterate that I can only open our school if it is safe to do so. If there are not enough staff to open school, even in this new limited role, I cannot be expected to do so. We will keep you updated through the website and our Facebook and Twitter pages should anything change.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

Children should not be left with elderly relatives or others in groups vulnerable to contracting coronavirus.



Head Teacher: Mr M Arthur
Chair of Governors: Mr G Bone



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What we will continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, we will continue to use the email addresses you provided us to send work to be done at home. Most older children will receive logins and instructions to access the Google classroom through the website and teachers have already begun to send hard copies of work home. This is to ensure your children have the tools to continue to learn. The initial uploads and packs will contain work which will cover from the 23rd March until the Easter Break. If your child has been absent from school and is unable to access the Google classroom then school will be open at certain times next week for collection of work packs.

Each child will bring home at least one reading book, as always, regular prolonged reading sessions are one of the most valuable things children can do outside of school. Each child will also have their login details for mathematics and timestable rockstars.

When will School reopen?

This is the most heartbreaking aspect of this. We simply do not know at present when the schools will be instructed to re-open.

We will post on our school website and social media our re-opening date once we receive permission from the authorities.

Please remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use NHS 111 online.

The Future

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 are in unprecedented times. We, as a school, are in as much uncertainty as you at home. We will get through this together. Whatever the future holds, we must aim for providing the best for our children.

I wish I could make reassurances. I wish I could give you a date when normality will return, and our children can return to school. You know I can't.

I want to wish you and your families all the very best. Look after yourselves, your loved ones and stay safe.

We send all our love from the whole team here at Toner Avenue Primary School.

Kind regards,

M. Arthur



Head Teacher: Mr M Arthur
Chair of Governors: Mr G Bone