



# Writtle Infant School

A very special place, where learning has no limits.

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Thursday, 19 March 2020

Dear Parents

## Re: School closure

As you know, we have been asked by the Department for Education to close the school from 3.10pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. We have of course anticipated this event, so all staff have prepared initial home learning activities for the children and each year group will be in touch with more information. We are still awaiting the government's definition of key workers and will write to you separately regarding school arrangements for these parents and their children. This will be a difficult transition for children and parents alike: we are very aware that key workers will still be going to work, or you may be working from home and find it hard to supervise your children's home learning as well as managing your own workload.

## Contacting the school

We will keep in contact with you as much as possible over the coming weeks. It is essential that you keep us up to date with any changes to phone numbers, email addresses or your home address. We intend to speak to all children at some point over the closure period, so please don't be alarmed if you receive a call from a member of staff! The school email addresses below will be monitored from 8am to 4.30pm as they are now. If you are contacting us outside these times, please do not anticipate a response until the following working day. Staff will do their best to respond as fully and as quickly as possible, but please bear in mind that some of them will also have their own children to look after or may be unwell themselves. We will continue to send home regular updates via ParentMail and our website, with new activities for the children to complete. We have also started a private group on Facebook where we can post any resources from social media which might be useful. All contact details are listed below:

<b>For general enquiries</b>	<a href="mailto:parents@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk">parents@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk</a>
<b>For correspondence with your class teacher</b>	<a href="mailto:sharks@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk">sharks@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:dolphins@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk">dolphins@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:parrots@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk">parrots@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:turtles@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk">turtles@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:squirrels@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk">squirrels@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:foxes@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk">foxes@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk</a>
<b>School Facebook group</b>	<a href="https://facebook.com/groups/writtleinfantschool">facebook.com/groups/writtleinfantschool</a>
<b>School Twitter account</b>	<a href="https://twitter.com/WrittleInfant">@WrittleInfant</a> ( <a href="https://twitter.com/WrittleInfant">twitter.com/WrittleInfant</a> )
<b>School website</b>	<a href="http://www.writtleinfantschool.com">www.writtleinfantschool.com</a>

## Attendance record

All children will be marked in the register with code Y during the period of closure, which denotes absence due to exceptional circumstances and does not count against their attendance percentage.

## Daily routine

We appreciate that supervised learning may be difficult, especially if you have children in different year groups, or you are trying to work at the same time. We are not expecting the day to be structured in the same way as it is in school,

**Our values: Honesty, Independence, Perseverance, Inclusivity, Politeness**

School documents can be printed, translated, or made available in alternative formats (e.g. large print), on request.



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but both you and your children may find that a familiar routine is useful. We would advise children in Years 1 and 2 to sit at a desk to do their work if possible. We know that children may need to share devices to complete any work online, and that cumulative screen time may be an issue for children who use screens for both their school work and leisure activities. For this reason we'd encourage the children to read books, play games and do some creative activities which do not require a screen. Further suggestions are in their home learning packs.

### **Physical activity**

If you are able to, we would encourage the children to have at least one hour of outdoor play per day, or if this is not possible then you can follow one of the free [Jump Start Jonny workouts](#) online, or another physical activity indoors. Joe Wicks (The Body Coach) is also running a daily PE session at 9am on his YouTube channel from Monday.

### **Social interaction**

It will be important for the children to continue interacting with their friends and family, even if they are in isolation. We would encourage you to use phone calls or video calling so that the children can maintain these friendships. If it is permitted, then meeting friends for play dates, a walk, or playing in a park would be even better.

### **Mental health**

Finally, we appreciate that this will be a challenging time for everyone. It will be very important to look after your and your children's mental health as well as your physical health during this period. We have provided below a number of useful links to support you, but we will continue to post more information online.

[CBBC Advice if you're worried about coronavirus](#)

[Young Minds – Talking to your child about coronavirus](#)

[Mental Health Foundation - Looking after your mental health during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

This is of course an unprecedented closure and we will all need to navigate the challenges of remote learning for the children. We have been very touched by the supportive messages we have received over the past few days and are so sorry see the term come to such an abrupt end in such worrying circumstances for us all. We wish you and your loved ones all the very best for the coming weeks - we will miss you all very much. Please take care of each other and we look forward to seeing you back at school in due course.

Best wishes,



Helen Castell  
Headteacher