

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and carers

As you know, the Government has said that schools must close from this Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> for all students **other than for those whose parents are key workers.**

Until the Department for Education has confirmed which roles are specifically covered by the term Key Worker, our school will use the following criteria;

- Health sector workers
- Supermarket staff
- Food delivery workers
- School/ sixth form college or pre-school staff
- Social workers, nursery nurses, educational psychologists, and therapist (e.g. occupational therapists) employed by local authorities CAFCASS or the NHS
- Emergency services providers i.e. fire brigade and police
- Local Authority Children's Services employees
- Royal Mail employees
- Military employees
- Utility workers
- Sanitation and refuse workers.

**The Government guidance states that school will be available to households where either both parents are key workers, or for key worker single parent households.** If this applies to you **and there are no other adults who can look after your children**, please let us know by 2pm on Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> by responding to the text message sent to all parents. If you do not confirm by text, we cannot guarantee a place for your child. Once we have confirmation that you will send your child to school, we will send you a form for you to complete giving details of your Key Worker role and place of work.

As this is such a fast-changing situation, we will ask parents to confirm they want to use this service on a weekly basis – we are calling the service our 'Community Classroom.'

We will do our very best to offer as many places as we possibly can for the children of those who will be working so incredibly hard to keep our public services and food supplies operating.

### **Exams**

Exams are cancelled in May and June and the Secretary of State for Education says he will provide further information soon for students who are impacted. As soon as we have this information, we will share it with you.

### **Free school meals**

Children who qualify for Free Schools Meals will be provided with Vouchers to buy food whilst school is closed. These will be emailed to parents as an attachment or put in the post.

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# Ark Evelyn Grace Academy

## **Learning at home**

It is not possible to fully replicate the educational experience at home. We have been working hard for several weeks to put in place contingency plans to ensure students can still access work and teachers are able to support their learning.

Work will be shared through SMHW, Hegarty, Seneca. Work will be set on SMHW for every timetabled lesson your child has. They can message their teacher for help and teachers can respond back. We will be checking which students have logged on and contacting parents where there have been apparent difficulties in doing this.

While schools are closed, we should all continue to follow health guidance.

Find out how to protect yourself here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For further information on the government response, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

We will continue to keep you informed of any developments via email, text and with regular updates on the school website.

This is an unsettling and disruptive time for everyone and we will work together as a school and local community to face the challenging times ahead. Thank you for your support and understanding during these exceptional circumstances. If we can do anything more to help your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

Tim Dainty  
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Ark Evelyn Grace Academy

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