



Hassocks Infant School

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Headteacher: Adrian Bates-Holland

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

I was hoping to write to all of you today with an update regarding arrangements for key workers and vulnerable children. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for some clarification on this from the Department for Education. As soon as we receive this information, we will contact individual families to let you know about access to school next week. Please wait for us to contact you, we are expecting to have a very short time frame to finalise plans for these families. We are doing all that we can to keep the school open for these families, however we will only open the school if we have sufficient staff to provide a safe learning environment.

We do know that for most of our children, our school will be closing for the foreseeable future. We have taken the decision to come off timetable tomorrow and class teachers have planned some exciting activities which will provide your children with some ideas to keep themselves entertained whilst the school is closed. Children will be learning to play some new games, creating books, building dens and being creative as well as spending quality time with their friends and adults. I have asked staff to ensure that the children come home covered in mud, glitter, paint and glue. I do apologise in advance for this! We will provide aprons and onesies wherever possible.

I do want to thank my wonderful staff team who have responded to these challenging circumstances at such short notice. They have worked tirelessly to put a number of arrangements in place to support your child throughout the school closure:

Home Learning

We will not be using an online learning platform as we did not feel that this is appropriate for infants and they would need a high level of support and supervision in order to access an online learning environment. This will also free up your devices for older children to use. We will be sharing home learning tasks on a weekly basis. Activities have been planned to ensure a balance of practical activities, writing and carefully selected websites. These will be sent via ParentMail and posted onto the new "home learning" section of the school website. We will be posting paper copies to families who do not have access to ParentMail.



All children will be coming home with a blank exercise book, pencil and extra reading books. If your child is not present in school, these can be collected from the school office.

Keeping in Touch

As part of our contingency plans, we will be organising a regular phone call so that you and your child can keep in touch with their class teacher or teaching assistant. We will shortly be setting up class email addresses so that you can email your child's class teacher. We will be sending further information shortly...watch this space! We may need to review these arrangements if staff are absent due to illness.

Safeguarding

We are aware that many families are facing some challenging circumstances. I would like to remind you that we do have vouchers for the local foodbank. Please contact me, in confidence if you would benefit from these.

If you are concerned about the health, safety or wellbeing of any child, do contact our team of Designated Safeguarding Leads at dsl@hassocksis.com. Our Safeguarding Leads will be able to provide guidance as well as signposting you to relevant services.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support. Tomorrow will be a difficult day as we say goodbye to many families but we look forward to seeing you all soon.

A.J. Bates-Holland

Adrian Bates-Holland
Headteacher

