

22nd March 2020



Dear Parents

I would like to thank you for being mindful of the real reason for the disruption to all services across the country, including education, i.e. to slow down the spread of Coronavirus through social distancing. The vast majority of you have demonstrated real compassion and respect for the guidance and will be keeping your child/ren at home next week. Thank you so much for this; you are to be commended.

The Waltham School and Pre-School doors will therefore remain closed to the vast majority of children until further notice and we shall endeavour to keep all lines of communication open with you over the coming weeks.

Those of you who messaged us on Friday to say you are considered to be a key worker, shall receive a message from me separately as there is a form from the CEO that you will need to fill in before we can accept your child/ren through the school gates.

I will be reviewing need across all four of my schools in the morning and from Tuesday, it is likely that ONE school in our cluster will remain open. This is to ensure that we are able to minimise the spread of infection amongst staff so that we can care for children of key workers/vulnerable children as per the government instruction. The situation for small rural schools is very different to those of larger schools, as you know, so I need to pool staff who are not self-isolating in order to support those in need; I have the full support of the DLAT CEO and LA to do this. I will send another message to you tomorrow so that you can make the necessary arrangements.

If your own personal circumstances change and you become desperate for the need of child care during the school day, e.g. family member becomes seriously ill, email the school office or contact your child's class teacher via Seesaw. If you have a pre-school child and need help (key workers/vulnerable or emergency), our Pre-School may be able to support you as they will remain open; please contact them via office@waltham.leics.sch.uk or tel. 01664 464089.

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact me via the school office or **FIRST RESPONSE 0166 305 0005 (including out of hours) or online <http://irsb.org.uk/childreport>**. See the DLAT policy on our school website.

Teachers will maintain regular contact with you so that your children's learning may continue. Please follow us on twitter, as we shall continue to tweet useful links and information; we shall also endeavour to post information on our website to support you if we can.

Please take care of yourselves and keep in touch. We will still be here for you if you need us, including weekends and over the Easter period. Thank you so much to those of you who have sent kind words of thanks and encouragement to staff; it is very much appreciated.

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Julie Hopkins