



## CHELLASTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

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**Head teacher – Mr Alex Smythe**

*Together we are **stepping to success**. Together we are **working to achieve our best***

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

## Coronavirus – school closure to most pupils

Dear parents/carers,

Following on from my last update, I'm reiterating 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, pupils with teachers as parents, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you **could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories**. In order to help us to prepare for the number of pupils who will be at school, please email the special email address at [keyworker@cjs.derby.sch.uk](mailto:keyworker@cjs.derby.sch.uk) with the following details (preferably by Friday morning):

- Child's full name
- Child's class
- Your profession (which you feel fits in with the 'key workers' description)
- Whether or not you intend to send your child to school

I won't be able to reply to all emails but we will store the information in order to enable us to plan for Monday. If, following the government's upcoming announcements, we feel you don't fit the criteria we will contact you to discuss this. We'll also be in touch again with all parents as soon as we are sure who this does apply to.

**The Zone** will remain open for the children in the above categories only; please book places in the usual manner.

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

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'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by **keeping in touch with you on Class Dojo**. It is essential that you connect to class dojo. If you are not currently connected, your child's class teacher will be sending you an invite by email and on paper.

### What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

➤ You'll find daily work for your child on the school's website at [www.cjs.derby.sch.uk/classes](http://www.cjs.derby.sch.uk/classes)

- The children will all have an exercise book in which to complete their work. Please come in to the school office to collect your child's book if they have been absent.
- We do expect all of the children to do their best to complete their work during term time and will reward them for doing so once they return to school
- During the school closure, you can contact the school through
  - [admin@cjs.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cjs.derby.sch.uk)
  - you will be able to message the class teacher on Class Dojo.
    - We are opening up the dojo messaging facility during this school closure.
    - Teachers will be available for messaging from 8.45am to 3.15pm.
    - Please keep the messages positive at this difficult time.
    - Teachers will endeavor to reply to you on the same day – teachers will be working throughout the school closure.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

### **What we won't be able to go ahead with**

During the school closure, we will not be going ahead with:

- Any school trips – we will communicate with you about any refunds for trips already paid for (please be patient about this)
- Events (most of which we have already indicated to you as cancelled)
- Booster groups
- Sports events
- Year 6 SATs

We are acutely aware that the **Year 6 residential to Mount Cook** is hanging in the balance. At this stage, we are **not making the decision to cancel the trip** because it could cost the school in excess of £30,000 in refunds. We are waiting to see how the land lies over the next month and whether the organising company (JCA) choose to cancel the visit. We would rather that things settle down so that we can still take the children.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via [admin@cjs.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cjs.derby.sch.uk).

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours faithfully



Mr Alex Smythe  
Head teacher