

Headteacher: Mrs A Maqsood-Shah

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www.highhazelsacademy.org

Dear Parents/Carers,

Temporary Closure of HHA Academy

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that all schools in England will close temporarily for the vast majority of children from end of the day on Friday 20th March.

This decision has been taken on the advice of medical and scientific experts in order to manage the spread of COVID-19 and relieve pressure on the health system.

From Monday 23rd March, pupils' education will continue from home.

We have prepared well for these circumstances so that all pupils can continue their education from home during the closure. I am extremely grateful to staff across the academy for the way in which they have taken on this challenge. All pupils across the Academy will receive a note book and writing equipment as well as some physical work books etc. However, most of the learning will be set online for all pupils via an Office 365 platform of SWAY (Nursery to Year 4) and TEAMS (Years 5 & 6). **As parents you will receive a text message weekly informing you that home learning has been set for your child. Children/parents will then need to go onto the school website to access their learning. You will receive by the end of the week an instruction sheet that explains how you can access your child/ren's learning online.**

The Academy will, however, remain open for two specific groups of pupils:

Those whose parents are defined as key workers (employed in the NHS, emergency services or elements of the food supply chain);

Those who are particularly vulnerable.

I would ask that parents who believe they fall into the category of key workers and will want their child to be supervised in school during this time to contact the school as soon as possible and **no later than 10 am on Friday 20th March by calling the school office on 0114 2442189** so that we can arrange for your child to continue to attend school.

The Government has also decided that no external exams will take place this academic year and SATS (Y6 and Y2) will therefore not be going ahead.

Over the next few days we will be in a position to update you further and provide additional information in particular we will be finalising how we can ensure that pupils on Free School Meals will receive entitlement to food. We will be doing everything we can to deliver whatever is required of us by Government.

We will likewise be ensuring that Year 6 pupils' transition to secondary school will be handled appropriately and, in due course, I will update parents fully on this.

We are entering times of further uncertainty, speculation and concern and our responsibility as a school, like yours as a parent, is to give our children the learning, support and reassurance that they will need in the coming weeks.

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We will continue to update parents on a regular basis with important information as we receive it via text but please do regularly check on the school's website.

Thank you for your continued support and for working with us in the weeks ahead.

Mrs A Maqsood-Shah