

Ivel Valley School

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19th March 2020

Coronavirus, school closures and our response

Dear Parents and Carers,

I know that it has been a very worrying week for many of you. Throughout the week I have been asking myself: what is the right thing to do? I know that many of you will have been asking yourselves the same question. There is uncertainty in almost all areas of life at the moment, not just in schools.

However, our school priorities during the pandemic remain:

1. The health and wellbeing of all pupils, families and staff
2. The continued education of pupils whether that is at home or at school

The announcement from Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, has left us without much clarity. However, our understanding is that **special schools should remain open if they can**. However, the government may change their minds on this.

At Ivel Valley we have been trying to maintain a proactive response to the Coronavirus outbreak. That has meant many meetings with colleagues from within school and those who work for other organisations.

We intend to remain open for as long as possible. We will **not be closing** when the mainstream schools close. We also intend to keep things as stable and familiar to pupils as possible. However, some changes may be necessary over time. However, we may need to move pupils onto one site at some point.

This situation will be kept under review and there is a possibility that we will not have enough staff to operate in the future.

If you are concerned about your child attending school, **you can keep your child at home**, this will be authorised under exceptional circumstances. I would also urge any parent or carer whose child has complex medical needs, particularly around their breathing, to keep their child at home.

If you decide to keep your child at home, we will send you work, activities and ideas to help them continue to make progress (and to keep them entertained)! This will be updated on the school website regularly. Look out for the green banner on the website sometime next week.

Easter holiday club will be cancelled. However, we will look to run a smaller Easter provision for the children of **key workers**. In accordance with government guidance, this is likely to include anyone who works in the NHS, emergency services, schools, delivery drivers, shop workers, etc.



We will continue to keep in touch with you in a number of ways. This will generally be through Parent Mail, so please check it regularly. We will also update the school Twitter account with information throughout the week. The school Twitter can be found at: https://twitter.com/Ivel_Valley_Sch

In order to support our planning on a day to day basis I would be grateful if you could let us know if you intend to keep your child off and also to let us know before you send them back self-isolation.

Finally, I want to thank you all for bearing with us during this very uncertain time. I will do my best to keep you updated with key information. In the meantime, I hope that you all stay healthy!

Yours faithfully



Joe

