



Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my last update, I am writing to let you know 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 opening for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

We are still 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. Please email the school by 10.00am tomorrow, Friday 20th March, @ admin@beckford.camden.sch.uk .

If you have already contacted us you do not need to contact us again. We will be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this applies to.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school 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 will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by email and by posting on the school website.

What we won't be able to go ahead with

- All School trips
- Breakfast or after-school clubs
- All school events
- Internal exams or tests – including SATs, Key Stage 1 Assessments, Phonics Screening and Early Years Assessments.

What about Free School Meals?

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 will continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of paramount important to us, so we will continue to help your child to learn through an online resource called Google Classroom.

What is Google Classroom?

Google Classroom is a free web service, developed by [Google](#), for schools, that allows learning to continue at home. The primary purpose of Google Classroom is to streamline the process of sharing files between teachers and students. Passwords and a guide to using Google Classroom' will be sent to parents before the end of the week, via email and within a pupil pack.

The teaching staff will be providing an online version of the 'Beckford Curriculum'. Work will become available from 9am on the first full day of closure. It would be great if you could provide your children with a set place for them to work. We will be sending home exercise books, pens, and pencils. All children will be given a pack to take home on Friday 20th March. If your child is not at school, you are welcome to come and collect the pack on Friday.

Although we realise that every family has different circumstances, it is important, if possible, to try and give the children a familiar routine. We are suggesting that they follow a timetable similar to the school routine. At 9am at least four activities will appear on Google Classroom for your children to complete. Their teacher will be available to give feedback between 9 -10am.

Here is a suggested timetable:

9-10.00am	Check in / log onto https://classroom.google.com . Teacher available for communication.
10-10.30	Reading and comprehension
10.30 -11.15	English Focus
11.15-11.30	Break
11.30-12.30	Maths Focus
12.30-1.30	Lunch
1:30 – 2.30	The Wider Curriculum (Topic, Science, RE, PSHE)
2.30 – 3.30	PE or Art

What is the current situation?

➤ All families and pupils should monitor themselves for symptoms and self-isolate if they experience symptoms. People who do not have symptoms are advised to carry on as normal and do not need to self-isolate.

1. The current advice is to stay at home for 7 days if you have either:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you are staying at home.

2. If you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus

- Then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**.
- The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill

3. If anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms

- They need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.
- See [ending isolation](#) section for more information

The Department for Education has a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education:

Staff, parents and students can contact the helpline by telephone and email:

Phone: **0800 046 8687**

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Here are some other links you may find useful:

- NHS information - www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
- Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> if:
 - you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
 - your condition gets worse
 - your symptoms do not get better after 7 days
- Only call 111 if you cannot get help online
- Self-isolation advice - www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/

If you have any questions please consult the:

- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

I would like to thank all the parents and carers at Beckford for their support and resilience within such a challenging time. It is at times like this that we all realise what an amazing community we have at Beckford.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff at Beckford for their hard work and dedication. They have helped make a difficult situation into a positive one by remaining focussed, calm and always being 100% committed to the children.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Drake', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Sam Drake
Headteacher