

NEWSLETTER 25

20th March 2020

SCHOOL CLOSURE

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Rode Methodist VC First School and Norton St Philip Church of England First School will be closed from the end of the school day on Friday 20th March 2020 until further notice.

CARE FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS

For details and more information please see previous email sent this morning. I would remind all parents that the guidance is very clear: '**If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**' Schools are closing in order that social contact is as limited as it can be. The guidance goes on to say: '**...schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**'

If you have already emailed requesting care on next week, I can confirm that Rode school (not Norton St Philip) will be open from 8.50a.m.-3.15p.m from Monday-Friday. Children do not have to wear school uniform but must bring their packed lunch unless they are entitled to a free school meal. Please only bring your children into school if you have received a confirmation email from Mrs Tommey.

HOME LEARNING + EMAIL ADDRESSES

By now you will have received emails and resource packs from your class teachers to enable your children to continue learning at home with you for the next two weeks before the Easter holidays. We realise that this is a very different and unexpected turn around of roles but we sincerely hope we will be able to guide you through this new adventure. Your class teacher is just at the end of an email or a telephone if you need their advice, guidance or help. Their email addresses are:-

Gruffalo Class

Mrs Muxworthy – gmuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Elmer Class

Mrs Phillips – vphilips@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Paddington Class

Mrs Opie – aopie@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Mrs Duncan – ncduncan@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Wild Things Class

Mrs Vowell – cvowell@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Miss Anderson – danderson@educ.somerst.gov.uk

Over the next few weeks we will develop Home Learning pages for each class on our website, and we will let you know as soon as these go live. My one piece of advice is to keep smiling and ensure the learning for you both is as fun and engaging as possible!

SAFEGUARDING

If you have a safeguarding concern during this period of closure please contact one of our Safeguarding Team:

Mrs Muxworthy gmuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk,

Mrs Slade kslade@educ.somerset.gov.uk or

Mrs Tommey ctommey@educ.somerset.gov.uk.

Or telephone the school office at Rode on 01373 830523.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

The Government have confirmed that they will give schools the flexibility to deliver meals or provide shop vouchers to children entitled to free school meals if they are no longer attending school due to closure.

Schools will be able to provide vouchers for supermarkets or local shops, which will be sent directly to families whose schools are closed on government advice. Final rates will be confirmed in the coming days, but the Government have confirmed that the voucher value for each eligible child will exceed the rate that schools are paid for free school meals, recognising that families will not be buying food in bulk and may therefore incur higher costs.

Further details will be emailed to eligible families.

WRAP AROUND CARE

IG Sports are unable to offer either Breakfast Club or Stay and Play Club next week. If this changes either Ian Groves or I will contact you.

MOB

Although our planned residential trip to MOB next week has been cancelled Mrs Tommey is doing everything she can to rearrange a visit for all our Y4s over a weekend in either September or early October. As soon as we have dates confirmed we will let you know....so don't wear out those beautiful new hoodies!

MESSAGE FROM MRS TOMMNEY & MRS WHITEHEAD

Well, it has been quite a week! We have had almost daily updates to our plans at school, culminating in the instruction to close save for a few children who still need our care, either because of their particular needs or because of their parent's or carer's work commitments. We are all very aware that our primary concern is for the safety of all our children and our staff. We will be keeping Rode School open for the children who still need to be in school, but I would urge you, as the government has advised, to consider keeping your children at home if at all possible for their own safety and yours.

Whilst your children are away from the school premises we will be doing all we can to continue to support you all as part of a virtual community and we plan to provide access to teaching and learning online. Our teachers will be keen to stay in touch with you all in the

weeks and months ahead.

In the meantime, I pray that you all stay safe and well and protected from this horrible virus and that we can resume our normal lives as soon as possible. When all this is over we are looking forward to inviting you all to a fun-filled Summer party in which we can celebrate being together in style!

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any worries or concerns you may have.

Caroline Whitehead, Chair of Governors, & Carolyn Tommey, Executive Head Teacher Rode and Norton St Philip School Federation