



THE POCHIN SCHOOL  
SCHOOL LANE  
BARKBY  
LEICESTERSHIRE LE7 3QL  
TELEPHONE: (0116) 269 2078  
[www.pochin.leics.sch.uk](http://www.pochin.leics.sch.uk)

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## RE: Coronavirus Update

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As you know will have seen, yesterday the government took the unprecedented step to close all schools in the UK, with effective from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. We are clearly trying very hard to keep up with the pace of change and the strategies outlined here may be subject to change over the coming days and weeks. Throughout these challenging times we will continue to communicate with you and try to keep you up to speed.

In this letter we will try to outline the next steps for you and your family

**If you are not a key worker\*, your child does not have an EHCP or a Social worker then school will be closed from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Work will be provided as follows:**

**Every child will have learning tasks provided by their teacher weekly.**

- These will be uploaded by 9am every Monday morning during term time.
- You will be able to find your child's learning task on the **school website** (<https://www.pochin.leics.sch.uk/>)
- Click on the tab, '**Our Learning**', click on your child's **class** and there will be a weekly area with a **weekly learning schedule** and any associated educational links and sheets.
- The learning is divided into 5 Maths lessons, 5 English lessons and Topic based activities, plus additional learning activities as required.
- Teachers weekly will set learning tasks, mark the tasks and give feedback to parents and pupils. *A further letter will follow explaining this in more detail.*

**If you are a key worker\*, or your child has an EHCP or a Social worker:**

We are working hard to prepare suitable childcare from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. At the moment please be prepared to send your child to The Pochin School from 8:30am. School will run an afterschool club free of charge until 4pm for key worker pupils. Outside of these times school still intends to run a Before School and After School club from 7:30am till 5:30pm as long as it has capacity to do so. There will be **NO KISS and DRIVE** facility until further notice. School will always try to remain open and staffed. However, this may need to change as we are currently trying to assess suitable safeguarding and staffing levels across The TRUST schools. It may be necessary to attend a site which is different to your child's usual school.

**Pupils eligible for Free School Meals:**

We are making plans to ensure meals are provided for all eligible pupils on Free School Meals (this is not for pupils in Key Stage 1 who have an entitlement to a universal free meal based on their age) if you wish to collect them daily please inform the office by 9am on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. There has been talk that a voucher scheme might be offered for children on Free School Meals but we await clarification on this.

**Emergency contacts:**

The school will be closed for general enquires and will only be taking calls about key worker pupils. If there is an emergency and you need to contact the school please call **07591415155**.

**Safeguarding Concerns:**

If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding a child at the school please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead who is Mrs Heather Sharpe or Mrs Alison Holmes.

**Communication and updates:**

During this fluctuating period we will be regularly communicating updates to you through school comms and on our website using the COVID 19 tab.

**Year 6 Students:**

Please be reassured that we are making arrangements to support those students who have been working really hard towards their end of Key Stage exams. We are confident that we can support the transition for your year 6 pupils without SATs.

**Finally**

We expect all parents to support their children at home to complete the learning tasks provided by the school. We hope this mentally stimulates the children and gives them an opportunity to flex their brains and develop their talents. All homework has been carefully chosen by staff members to be supportive of your child as they learn from a distance and are conscious of not to over burden parents with support needed.

You will be able to contact your child's teacher with any questions regarding the work provided through the following email addresses. Please **ONLY** use these email address to contact staff. Staff will respond as soon as reasonably possible.

[class1@pochin.leics.sch.uk](mailto:class1@pochin.leics.sch.uk)

[class2@pochin.leics.sch.uk](mailto:class2@pochin.leics.sch.uk)

[class3@pochin.leics.sch.uk](mailto:class3@pochin.leics.sch.uk)

[class4@pochin.leics.sch.uk](mailto:class4@pochin.leics.sch.uk)

[class5@pochin.leics.sch.uk](mailto:class5@pochin.leics.sch.uk)

During this turbulent time we appreciate that all of our families and members of the school community have to make difficult choices and sacrifices to support the greater good for our country. We really appreciate the positive attitude of everyone trying to support the school to keep our children and our community safe and to stay healthy. We understand that this is challenging for many families and frustrating with the lack of clarity. We will do all we can to keep you updated as time goes on.

We are looking forward to seeing all our families and children again in happier times in the future. We will miss all the children – stay safe and be happy!

Warm regards



Mrs Heather Sharpe

**\* Key workers list:**

- NHS staff
- Teachers and support school
- SEND staff
- Police and community support officers
- Frontline civilian police staff
- Prison officers and staff
- Probation officers and trainee prob officers
- LA officers and LA/ NHS social workers
- Uniformed staff in fire and rescue services
- Armed forces personnel and some civilian MOD personnel (i.e. clinical staff, MOD police, uniformed fire and defence) and some discharged personnel
- Highway agency traffic staff
- LA environmental health officers/practitioners
- Care workers
- Food/supermarket drivers and other workers
- Foster carers
- Staff who maintain critical infrastructure
- Pharmacists
- Drivers for school children.
- Back office staff supporting critical services.
- Emergency planning and resilience partnership staff.

**Eligible parents/carers:**

- Lone parents who are on the list.
- Both parents who are on the list.
- At present if only one parent out of two is on the list they are not eligible. Should this change in the future we will advise immediately.