



Trottiscliffe

CE Primary School

9th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all keeping well and are able to enjoy the good weather that we are now being blessed with at this challenging time. As a school, we would like to begin by thanking any parents who are currently working to support the NHS, we can only imagine the stress you are being placed under and we are grateful for all you are doing.

The NHS have sent through the attached guidance regarding who to contact for medical concerns for your child at this time and asked us to share this with our parents.

We are all aware that many families' lives have changed significantly as a result of the current situation. Some parents' employment status may have changed and some may now be receiving Universal Credit so I wanted to ensure you were aware of additional help that may be available through school.

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

If you are in receipt of one the above benefits, please apply to KCC by using the link below.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals#tab-2>

If your application shows you are entitled to Free School Meals for your child, please email the school office as soon as possible with a screen shot of the outcome as evidence. We will then be able to organise for your family to receive weekly food shopping vouchers whilst the school is unable to provide meals.

Key worker Childcare

As a school we will continue to offer childcare for a limited number of children –

- 1) children who are vulnerable,
- 2) children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and **cannot be safely cared for at home.**

Please note that we will only be able to make provision for pupils who fall into these two criteria. If a parent is working from home, the safest place for your child is at home with you. If you are still going out to work but do not qualify as a critical worker for the Covid-19 response, we are unable to offer you childcare.

As we need to plan the staffing rota, we need to know in advance how many pupils we will have in attendance. To protect our staff we will be operating on skeleton staffing and maintaining social distancing therefore if you require a place for your child, please give us as much notice as possible (24 hours notice as a minimum). You must email the school office office@trottiscliffe.kent.sch.uk to request this as answerphone messages may not be picked up in time. If you indicate that your child will require childcare and this changes for any reason, please let us know. Apologies for having to be so prescriptive about this; we know you will understand why this is necessary as we all do all we can to prevent the risk of spread of Covid-19.

Headteacher: Miss Lucy Henderson B Ed (Hons)

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Telephone/Fax: 01732 822803 E-mail: office@trottiscliffe.kent.sch.uk



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Home learning

Ahead of the start of the Summer terms, at the beginning of next week, the school will be sending home individual logins via email for the online learning portal KLZ (Kent Learning Zone) where all the children's home learning tasks will be published each week by their teacher. Staff continue to be happy to be contacted during school hours on the following emails should parents have any queries regarding work that has been set:

Burundi Class	Mr Wyatt-Hughes	twyatt-hughes@trottiscliffe.kent.sch.uk
Uganda Class	Mrs Frame	vframe@trottiscliffe.kent.sch.uk
Congo Class	Miss Crew	jcrew@trottiscliffe.kent.sch.uk
Kenya Class	Mrs Parkin	cparkin@trottiscliffe.kent.sch.uk
	Mrs Argent	kargent@trottiscliffe.kent.sch.uk

Please remember it is essential that every child continues to read, practice number skills and engage with some academic learning in order to maintain all that they have already achieved this year. However there are also a wealth of practical learning opportunities that you are best placed to facilitate at home. It is lovely to see and hear about all the baking and art work families are enjoying as well as the physical activities being enjoyed together. The Facebook group 'Trottiscliffe CEP School Community' has been a really positive place to keep in touch and share ideas and I thank so many of you for joining the group, I would encourage any parents who are not already members to join this if possible. Please remember this is a private group just for the staff and parents of our pupils.

All families will continue to receive weekly phone calls from staff members whilst the school is closed to the majority of children as we really do care about our families. We know and appreciate how challenging this situation is and we want to support you in any way we can whilst following the government restrictions at this time.

We have had requests from a couple of parents to set up live online learning for groups of children but we will not be offering this at this time. During our investigations into the feasibility of this we have been made aware of a number of safeguarding risks that we would be unable to prevent and our children's safety is our primary concern. We will however continue to look into different approaches to distance learning to make learning as engaging as possible at this time. We do think it is vital however that children are staying in touch with each other. The idea that parents have organised letter writing pen pals and have setup phone calls and video chats is great and I would encourage this as children still need opportunity to chat with their friends please however ensure use of currently popular apps such as Zoom and HouseParty is properly supervised to prevent any uninvited gatecrashers.

Safeguarding and other urgent concerns

Please remember we will still be manning the office and headteacher email accounts throughout the closure period and would like to assure all parents that you are able to contact us at any time with any concerns you may have.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy Easter, and I invite you to take a look over the Easter weekend at the following link from Reverend Linda to the '**Making an Easter Garden**', which will go live at 8am on Good Friday morning.

<https://www.bartcombinedbenefice.org.uk/welcome.htm>

Yours faithfully,

Miss Lucy Henderson

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