



19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure that many of you will already be aware that yesterday evening the government announced that all schools in England will close on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March for most pupils. The closure is until further notice. Schools will remain open for some pupils; children of key workers, children who have an Education Health Care Plan and children who have an allocated social worker. School are aware of those on EHC Plans and those with social workers. As a Trust we are committed to providing support for all of these groups identified by the government. Families who feel that they fall into these categories and need support with childcare should contact the school directly as soon as possible.

At the time of writing this letter however, we do not have from the government the full details of who is meant by key workers. This should follow later today or tomorrow.

Therefore the majority of our pupils will be at home, most likely for a number of weeks. The pupils are expected to continue their learning through home learning tasks. A pack of home learning and directions of other online activities has already been sent home, contact emails for staff will also be shared on the home learning pages of the website. As parents we ask you to support your child with these activities and encourage them to engage in learning each day. We shall regularly make contact with you all via our web site, text and social media and we ask you to do the same. In terms of National Tests – these will not go ahead as planned.

Staff who are well will still be working and so we will be directing them to plan more activities, tasks and prepare and share other useful documents for home learning in the coming days and weeks.

Whilst the school is closed, our duty and responsibility to safeguarding our pupils remains. Our regular check ins with families needing a bit of extra help and support will continue throughout the period of school closure, just as if the school was open. Please do not feel offended if a member of school staff calls to check in with you, and to speak to your child. If you have any safeguarding concerns whilst the school is closed, for your child or for any other pupil from the school, please contact – [headteacher@manorhill.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@manorhill.staffs.sch.uk)

Pupils who are in receipt of Free School Meals (not Universal Free Meals) will be provided with a takeaway service daily through the school's kitchen. This can be collected from the school entrance between 11.30 – 12.30pm each day.

All of our pupils have been absolutely amazing over the last few days they have been a credit to both you as parents and the school. However, many are concerned and worried about the next few weeks and we would ask you to be extra vigilant and take the time to talk to your child and offer reassurance.

Finally, we would just like to thank you all for being incredibly supportive of our school in the past few days in what have been very testing times for us all. Your patience, understanding and real kindness is very much appreciated. These are unprecedented times and we know how worrying this situation is and how hard these next months may be for families.

We hope that together, as a school and Trust community, we will continue to support one another and make the best of the situation that we are faced with.

Sending our sincere best wishes to each and every one of you,

Jessica Roden

Head teacher

Lynne Bennett

CEO CLPT