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20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

In this unprecedented time, I am writing to say how sad we are that school has closed today. However, the guidelines are clear and as a contribution to the country's efforts, PCMS is open for the foreseeable future from Monday 23 March receiving children of key workers and also vulnerable children who would benefit from routine, security and support. Children will follow the usual school day [8.45-3.30pm] and school will be open from 8am to 5pm to fit in with drop off and pick-ups.

Children attending school will wear summer polo shirts as part of their school uniform every morning and outdoor PE kit for each afternoon. They will follow the home learning programme but within school.

Please contact school to confirm your child will be attending. We have a register started of our new cohort for safeguarding and to timetable the staff. All staff will be in on Monday 23 March as we have planned a timetable for children at home to follow in parallel to the children in school. The timetable is on the website www.ponteland.academy under the Home Study tab. Previously, the homework was under the News tab but there is so much available that we have created a home study tab too with pages for Year 5, Year 6 and KS3.

School dinners are available for children attending. Parents are asked to cancel their child's preordered school meals if they are in self isolation. Morning break biscuits will be given to the children in school.

School Transport is running as normal and NCC transport will review this at the end of the week once schools settle with their new cohort.

Children receiving Free School Meals can collect a grab bag from the school office. We are waiting for government updates but in the meantime we can provide a packed lunch. Please contact school to confirm that you will collect between 11.30 and 12noon.

The School trips to Barcelona, London and Ford Castle have been referred to the DfE's Academy department of Risk Protection Arrangement who are working on the government's advice of no travel for 30 days and we have to wait for the RPA and ABTA guidelines.

All staff will be in school on Monday confirming the timetable and provision. Thereafter staff will be on rotation.

As we work with this new routine we expect there to be changes along the way. We have called the next two weeks Phase 1 and expect to remain open in the Easter holidays and May half term in response to key worker and family requests.

We finished this week with such a lovely day and with these positive thoughts our best wishes go to each and every family to keep well and healthy. We have to remain positive and safe.

We shall keep in contact and you are always welcome to get in touch.

Caroline Pryer
Headteacher