



Diocese of Salisbury
Academy Trust
'Beyond expectations for all of God's children'

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Following today's announcement about the closure of schools from Friday, I feel it important to write to you again briefly. I know that to many this will be a relief and to others something of a logistical challenge and frustration. I am so grateful to the leaders and staff in all our schools for the immense effort they have put into seeking to provide on-going education for our children in the most challenging of circumstances. We are so thankful as well for all your support and the encouraging messages that you have passed on to staff.

So, from next week, for the vast majority of children there will be no school. However, your school will have shared with you a range of ways in which learning can continue – if not, you will certainly hear more very soon. We ask for your help in engaging with this as much as possible. Although staff will generally not be in school, they will be working hard behind the scenes in so many ways to support you and your children.

You will have heard, no doubt, that the government are looking for us to make provision for a number of key workers and children with certain needs. As yet, we are not totally clear what this will look like, nor precisely who will qualify but this will become clear later today, we hope. If, once this information is published, you believe your children may qualify for this provision and you think you would like to make use of it, please let the school know so they can plan for this – please don't contact the school before this is published because we will not know either. I need to make you aware that this may not be at your child's school – it may be at another local school because many schools will be working in partnership with one another. Our Headteachers are already making plans and will be in touch with you – please bear in mind that they are not fully aware of expectations yet either and give them plenty of space to make arrangements. Likewise, we are not yet sure about provision for those children over Easter and exactly what this would look like so bear with us.

I must admit to not having ever expected to need to deal with a situation quite like this but equally, I have never been prouder to be part of a such a family of schools where leaders, staff, pupils and parents have been prepared to work so positively together in the face of real adversity. Together we can do this.

Someone sent me a message last night quoting Psalm 46: 'God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble, so we will not fear'. I hope it will encourage you like it encouraged me.

With my prayers for you all,

Mark Lacey
Chief Executive