

18 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Update

Perhaps, like us, you may have been expecting news about potential school closures yesterday from the Government, but nothing was mentioned. We do however believe that the government is planning some level of closure and that an announcement on this will come imminently, especially considering the statement made today that schools in Scotland and Wales will close by the end of the week.

Regardless, we do not know what the finer arrangements of school closure might be, but we do feel that schools may well have a different focus than the overarching one we currently have.

Such closures therefore may be at regional level; it may not affect some groups (key workers' children); and it may not affect some age groups (younger children or exam classes.)

Equally, it may mean full closure for all.

Situation in school

Several schools are already starting to operate partial closure or closing fully as they struggle to cope amid rising staff and pupil absences.

Today, we have not at been at this stage, but we do now have a number of teaching staff and pupils off because they are self-isolating.

We took several, temporary steps yesterday to enable us to continue to operate with the least amount of disruption. This included increasing the teachers available to cover staff who are unable to come into work, to operate slightly larger class sizes and to implement class movement for pupils in some areas.

Naturally, as we move forward, simply expecting all schools to remain open regardless is becoming increasingly untenable.

For now, though, please do keep an eye out for any government briefing this afternoon and over the coming days.

As ever, we will let you know how any national decisions might impact us specifically here at Prioory as well as update you on our own specific circumstances.

Can I take this opportunity once again to thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours faithfully



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