

DEWHURST ST MARY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher:  
Mrs Sue Wilcox



Deputy Headteacher:  
Miss Natalie Ranson

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been announced by the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, and the Prime Minister that **schools will close from Friday 20th March at 3.15pm** for the majority of our children. *Children of key workers and those who fall into a vulnerable category will be allowed into school as usual* on Monday morning.

Tomorrow we will be meeting and clarifying which children fall into these groups and contacting parents accordingly. Please stand by for more information. For those children who will not be joining us on Monday, you are aware that we have been planning for this eventuality during the last week and have sent children home with a pack of paperbased work and logins for online learning.

By the end of this week we will be communicating additional online learning for you to complete if possible with your child. These activities should see you through to the Easter Holidays.

As the decision to close schools is reviewed, more resources will be made available after the holiday period should we still not be open. In home educating your children, I would strongly advise the creation of a timetable to ensure a routine to the day and the week. Children then know what is expected of them and when, and it will help you to establish a learning zone in your homes. Can we also please ask that you limit screen time during the day to the recommended 30 minutes. We are very aware that many of the activities planned ask for you to use devices, so we encourage you to intersperse these with activities that do not.

It is our aim to remain in communication with you all in a variety of ways. We will try to email, communicate via social media and in some instances call if we can. If you need to contact school, please use the email address: [admin@dewhurst.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@dewhurst.herts.sch.uk)

and your query or concern will be passed to the relevant member of staff and be dealt with as soon as possible. Please check in with your friends and year group parents via the Facebook and WhatsApp groups that you have set up as many will require support to deal with the challenges that may lie ahead.

As we enter into this period, we at Dewhurst St Mary hold each and every one of you in our thoughts and prayers and hope that you all remain safe and well. Thank you so very much for your kind words and appreciation of our efforts over the last few weeks - it has meant a lot to us all and has sustained us through a difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Wilcox

Headteacher