



20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## School Closure Provision

Following my recent correspondence, I am continuing to try and keep you informed as much as I can but you will understand that we are in a fast changing scenario. The Secretary of State for Education has now given us an indication of the definition of key workers whom we should provide education for.

To clarify at Chew Valley School and across the Lighthouse Trust, we are delivering three priorities as a response to the coronavirus epidemic:

1. Supporting a national policy of social distancing to minimise the spread of COVID-19. For this reason we want to reduce the number of people meeting together on school sites to the minimum necessary. Schools are therefore closed to the majority of students and staff.
2. Support key workers in delivering their critical work on the frontline of the crisis.
3. Continuing to provide care and support for vulnerable children such as those with an EHCP or social worker.

These priorities will require careful balancing and we make the following requests of families:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. We anticipate that most families who have one key worker will continue to keep children at home in the care of another family member (although not grandparents) to support the aim of social distancing and to limit the chance of the virus spreading.
- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them – please indicate that to us by completing the survey (our preference) or contacting your school directly. We would ask that, in the first instance, we have this information by 12 noon today so that we can make our plans for provision on Monday. We will have further information for families as we manage the situation next week when we plan to introduce a weekly booking system to support planning for shifts etc.

If students are coming into school on Monday, we are not expecting them to wear school uniform. We will review this over time depending on the numbers of students we are working with. Aspens, our caterers, have agreed that they will be able to provide some kind of food to be purchased at break and lunchtime although they are dependent on their own staff. We are looking at our opening times and on Monday the site will be open from 8am to 5pm, however indications are that the buses will be scheduled at the usual times. With regards to other students, they need to check with their transport providers. For our vulnerable students we will look at this area carefully.

Students will be able to access the Library at either end of the school day. As I say, we are reviewing our opening times and indeed our provision on what was going to be the Easter holiday period and I will come back to you in due course.

If you did not complete the survey issued yesterday because you did not meet the definition of a key worker that it included, but you meet the government's [published definition](#), please could we ask you to complete the [attached survey](#) by 12 noon today. My apologies for the speed of this; however we

do need to make our plans for next week. If you are unable to complete the survey by 12 o'clock today, please do still complete the attached paper copy and return to enquiries@chewvalleyschool.co.uk by 10am tomorrow, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March. If you completed the survey yesterday, please do not complete the survey again.

The data you provide using the online form will be processed by 'Survey Monkey' on behalf of the school and the Trust. Survey Monkey fully comply with the requirement of the law in relation to your data. Please feel free to review their [Privacy Policy](#).

We will not be responding to you following completion of the survey but shall be publishing our opening arrangements on our website this afternoon.

Thank you all for your cooperation and understanding in these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Beynon', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher