

Head Teacher: Michelle Lauder
Acting Deputy Head Teacher: Caroline Corkin

Tel: (0191) 456 2470
Fax: (0191) 455 4510



Laygate Lane
South Shields
Tyne & Wear
NE33 4JJ

info@laygate.s-tyneside.sch.uk
www.laygatecommunityschool.co.uk

Friday 20th March 2020

School Closure Information

Dear Parents / Carers

As I am sure you are all aware school will be closed from Monday 23rd March 2020 to most pupils until further notice.

The government has given clear guidance on self isolation to reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus and the more recent scientific advice on how to reduce the spread further is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

This is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to stay open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

Schools are being asked to continue to provide **care** for a limited number of children – children who are considered to be vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response (key workers) and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs).

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other sectors identified by the government. This list can be found on the government website. Many parents working in the identified sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home, and every child who can be cared for safely at home should be.

Therefore, only children who are identified as being vulnerable and children of identified key workers are invited to come to school. School staff have contacted the identified families during the course of this afternoon to inform them. **If you have not had a phone call or text message this afternoon I must ask you to keep your child at home until further notice.**

For those children who will be in school on Monday they will be cared for by the staff we have remaining in school. The day will be very different for your child and they will probably be with staff and other children they are not usually with. We will ensure your child engages in a variety of activities, however the normal timetable of curriculum provision will not be followed.

Our morning breakfast club will still run from 8:10am and current times for the start and finish of the day will remain the same. We will be continuously reviewing these arrangements to ensure we are meeting the needs of those families whose children are attending school.

School Meal Provision

For children of key workers and vulnerable children in school

School catering staff will be serving a reduced hot and cold menu every day from Monday. These meals are free to all children attending school. The children will also still have the option of mid-morning milk which is free to children attending school.



Children NOT attending school but entitled to Free School Meals

Initially school catering staff will provide a packed lunch for means-tested pupils eligible for free school meals. Packed lunches will consist of a sandwich, savoury snack, piece of fruit, drink and cake/cookie. Ingredients may vary according to availability.

Eligible parents will be required to book take away packed meals for at least a week, rather than book daily, so that catering staff can plan staffing levels accordingly. Booking on a weekly basis also ensures our cook can cater for all, to minimise waste, and so that food suppliers can buy in the provisions for us and plan deliveries.

It is important that parents who wish to collect their free meal, book their meal before 9am on Friday morning for the following week.

You can collect your packed lunch each day from the kitchen entrance. Please come up to school using the pedestrian access. Staff will be at the kitchen door to pass you your free meal, which must be taken away. As we are encouraging social distancing I would ask you to kindly stick to the given time slots below for collecting your meal. Please avoid gathering and keep distance between other people as much as possible.

Meal collection times:

11:00 – 11:15 Surname starting with A to F

11:15 – 11:30 Surname starting with G to L

11:30 – 11:45 Surname starting with M to R

11:45 – 12:00 Surname starting with S to Z

Any meals that are not collected will be taken to the Food Bank.

Whilst this is short notice, please contact school on 0191 456 2470 by 12pm Monday 23rd March 2020 to book your meals for the whole week.

We understand that the whole situation is very difficult and we appreciate your understanding and patience at this time. Arrangements may change moving forward. Be reassured school will contact you in the event of changes. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any concerns or queries or you need support.

We wish you and your families well in these challenging times.

Kindest regards

Michelle Lauder
Head Teacher

