

Coronavirus (Covid-19): Frequently Asked Questions

Update 24/3/20

We have put together a list of frequently asked questions to help parents and students through the implications of school closure and what this means for you and them in the future. If you still have further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at office@theswanschool.org.uk and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Please remember that the situation is very fluid right now and that the answers below may no longer be valid when you look again. We will try and update them and add to them as often as we possibly can.

School Closure

How long will schools be closed for?

- It is very hard to say. We will follow government advice and close for as long as needed. We will keep parents informed via our website, email, and MCAS about developments.

How will I know when you will open again?

- Please continue to check our website regularly for further information and updates. We will try and provide as much information as we possibly can. Parents/carers will also be regularly emailed with updates and announcements will be posted on MCAS.

Will trips and other events still be going on when the school reopens?

- We do not yet know how long the school will be closed for, which makes it hard for us to plan for events in the future. When we are back we will do everything we can to make sure children's education gets back to normal.
- Year 7 camp will be cancelled for this year and money refunded. We are planning to organise a year 7 and 8 camp next year to ensure that children do not miss out on this valuable experience. More detail will follow when the school reopens.

Will school closure affect my child's attendance record?

- No. School attendance records will not be affected during the partial closure.

Will we get any contact from school?

- Staff will be making weekly phone calls to all students to check in on learning, as well as their wellbeing. These calls will be made from private numbers to parents' phones - please do answer! We will also be in contact with regular updates for parents via MCAS and email.

My child receives free school meals. How will this work if they are at home?

- Vouchers will be emailed to families who are eligible for free school meals to help support with the cost of additional food during the school closure. Please let us know if you think you are eligible but have not received a voucher.

Distance Learning

How will my child continue learning if the school is closed?

- As a parent, the easiest way that you could support your child is by making sure that they have access to a computer and a quiet space to learn. This will enable them to access online materials and emails from their teachers so that they can continue their learning as best as possible in the given circumstances. This does not need to be an expensive device; anything with internet access should be sufficient.
- Learning resources will be made available through Google Classroom, which all students can access at home. Students are issued with a Daily Task List, which makes it clear what needs to be done each day. This list is also emailed to parents every day.

If I don't have a computer at home, how can I help my child continue their learning?

- We have conducted a student survey to find out which students do not have access to IT at home and loaned Chromebooks to any relevant students. We do have some chromebooks available to lend out and this was/will be done on a means-tested basis - families without any access to IT will be prioritised. Unfortunately, we do not have enough chromebooks available for all of our students to borrow.

What should my child write on?

- All students who were in school on Thursday 19th or Friday 20th March were issued with a red exercise book where they can complete their work. Some distance learning tasks will also be completed online.
- **If your child did not get a book, you can collect one from the waterproof box that is outside the school gate - you do not need to come into reception.**
- Alternatively, students can complete work in their own notebooks or on lined paper.

What will happen over Easter?

- We will not be setting work in the same way over the Easter break. However, we will provide some suggested activities to help children and their parents to structure the day. This may include links to online learning platforms.

How will my child keep in touch with their friends?

- We understand that learning from home can feel isolating for children so we have set up a 'Year 7 Chat' area on Google Classroom where they can get in contact with each-other for social reasons, without interfering with the 'Distance Learning' feed. This area will be monitored by the school to remove any inappropriate content. We ask you to continue to monitor your child's internet activity to ensure that they are able to focus on their work and, most importantly, stay safe.

Educational Provision for The Children of Key Workers/Vulnerable Students

Who are key workers?

- The government has issued guidance as to which professions are key workers, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>. Many parents working in these sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

What counts as a vulnerable child?

- Vulnerable children include those who work with a social worker and those who have an Educational Health Care Plan.

Will school run as normal for the children of key workers?

- The day runs from 9.15am to 3.30pm, with students able to arrive on site from 8.45am. Students will work through the Daily Task List for four lessons, as well as 1 hour of PE/Games, and 30 minutes of elective. Children will wear their own clothes and bring a packed lunch.

What will the school do to keep these children safe?

- We have increased the amount of cleaning that takes place during the school day, particularly in areas that have high contact for students. Tissues and hand sanitiser are available in all classrooms.

- All students have to wash their hands when they arrive at school, as well as before eating and after break.
- Students will be spread out across the classroom(s) to maintain distance. They will be reminded to respect each-other's personal space.
- No team sports will be played during Games - we will participate in activities that maintain good social distance, for example badminton and rounders.
- Chromebook computers are wiped down with antibacterial spray after use.

For children attending school, is it open over the Easter holidays?

- Our plan is to remain open during the Easter holiday to the children of key workers only. The structure of these days will look slightly different to reflect the fact that this is a holiday period. We will be in contact with parents to confirm if you need provision during the Easter holiday.

My child only has a slight cough or fever. Is it OK for them to come to school during the 'partial closure'?

- No. It is important that everyone follows government advice and that your child stays at home - this is currently to self-isolate for 14 days if they have symptoms or live with someone showing symptoms. This is in the best interests of the child as well as the school community. This includes the children of key workers.

I am a key worker and do not want to send my child to school. Is that OK?

- Our school will be staying open to ensure that key workers are able to do their vital jobs. Many parents working in these sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

My child has underlying health conditions. Can I keep them at home?

- There are children that the coronavirus may have a greater impact on if they have underlying health conditions. The current advice from the government is that everyone should continue to attend as normal but we ask you to contact the school to discuss your child's personal circumstances.

Other

I've heard that exams have been delayed. Is that true?

- The government has announced that public examinations this summer will not go ahead as normal but more detail on this has yet to emerge. This is not yet relevant for our school as we only have year 7 students.

My child is very worried about coronavirus. Who can they speak to?

- While children are at home, family members will be a first port of call to reassure worried children. However, members of staff are available should they need additional support. Using the Green Button on our website is a good way to get in touch.

What can I do as a parent?

- Please speak to your child about the coronavirus and reiterate the key messages we have covered in assemblies about staying safe. They are:
 - Additional hand washing, especially before eating and after using toilets.
 - Always coughing / sneezing into a tissue and disposing of it in a bin immediately.
 - Avoid touching their face, and especially their eyes, nose and mouth.
 - Avoid contact with others by not shaking hands, etc.
 - Don't share drinks, bottles or plates.
- Please read the guidance we have circulated about how to talk to your children about coronavirus.

We are due to go on holiday over Easter. Should we still go?

- You should check the advice given to you by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about traveling abroad. Currently the FCO has advised against all overseas travel.

How long will this last for?

- It's very hard to say, but it is likely disruption will last for many weeks and maybe months. Please continue to check our website regularly and look out for more communication from us via email and MCAS.

How will this affect the building of the new site?

- We are in ongoing discussions with the developers and the Department for Education about this. At the moment, work on the site has been continuing and is on track - we will keep you updated if this changes. Planning permission is already in

place to erect another building on our temporary site, if there are significant delays to the programme.

How will admissions work for next year's Y7?

- If you, or someone you know, has been offered a place to start at The Swan in September, the admissions process should run as normal. You will need to confirm that you want your place via Oxfordshire County Council.

What about the induction days for The Swan? In the past, pupils in Year 6 have been invited into secondary school during the summer term.

It is highly unlikely we will be able to do this. Rest assured that we will be in touch with you via email and post to let you know everything you need to know in the summer term, including purchasing uniform. We will ensure they settle into Year 7 as best as possible when schools reopen.

Where can I get more information?

- There is more information on our [website](#). Parents can also get information from the official Government webpages below:
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>
 - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>