

Coronavirus (Covid-19): Frequently Asked Questions

Update 19/3/20

We have put together a list of frequently asked questions to help parents through the spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19). We are alert to the fact that the advice is changing regularly at the moment so please do keep checking government websites and we will also endeavour to send updates if anything significant changes. If you still have further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at office@theswanschool.org.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Partial School Closure

Will schools close?

- On Wednesday 18th March, the government asked schools to close for all students with the exception of the children of key workers and vulnerable students. The closure will be effective from Monday 23rd March.

How long will schools close 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.

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.

Who are key workers?

- The government has issued guidance to say that key workers include the following professions. Parents/carers have been issued with a survey to help us identify who is eligible for this provision, which helps us plan accordingly.

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 closure affect my child's attendance record?

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

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.

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. If you have not already been identified but need access to a loaned device, please do let us know.

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. 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.

Educational Provision for The Children of Key Workers/Vulnerable Students

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

- This will depend on the number of students and available staff. It is likely that our day will run slightly differently to normal and we will have an earlier end time. More details will be sent to relevant parents soon.

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 visitors to the school are now asked to declare that they have not visited a high-risk area or have any known symptoms, all visitors must use hand sanitiser when they arrive.
- We have also organised pastoral activities to promote good hygiene habits and we ask parents to support us in this.
- We have stopped shaking hands at the start of lessons and shifted our lunchtime to allow all students time to wash their hands before lunch.

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 so we would urge you to send your child in to school, unless they are ill or self-isolating. However, this is a decision for you to make as a parent.

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.

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.

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/>