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Ref:
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Dear Parent / Carer

Following the letter sent to you regarding school closure arrangements on 18th March 2020, please find below further details outlining our arrangements for the coming weeks.

Latest government advice regarding school closures

The first aim of the partial school closure measures set out by the Secretary of State for Education is to reduce the overall population of children moving around local areas as far as possible, in order to further reduce the number of social interactions and thus flatten the upward curve of the COVID-19 outbreak.

However, the second aim is to continue to care for children who are vulnerable, or whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response, so that they can continue to work where alternative childcare arrangements cannot be made.

Following this guidance PLC is absolutely committed to remaining open for those children and young people who **absolutely need to attend school**. This must be balanced against our moral responsibility to do the right thing by the rest of the students, PLC staff and the wider community, regarding social distancing and reducing the number of social interactions in order to reduce the spread of the virus over the coming weeks.

The latest government advice clearly states that schools should only remain open for those students that **absolutely need to attend**. This includes children of key workers and those identified as fitting into a 'vulnerable group'.

*'We have asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children who **absolutely need to attend**.'*

Criteria for attending PLC

Therefore, from Wednesday 25th March 2020, we will apply a strict evidence based criteria for those students that 'absolutely need to attend' Pathways Learning Centre.

Criteria for children of key workers

The latest guidance for children of Key workers states:

*'Many families with parents working in critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And **every child who can be safely cared for at home should be**, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.'*

Therefore:

1. Where a key worker can demonstrate they are required to work and have not been directed to work from home, and there are no other parents or adults that can supervise the child safely at home, THEN the student may attend PLC for the specific days that these criteria are met. ie. If these criteria are met for 2 days each week, the student should only attend for those two days and not assume they can attend every day.
2. If a student is old enough and responsible enough to look after themselves during school hours, similar to the arrangements you might make during school holidays, then they do not need to attend. This would typically refer to Year 10 & 11 children of key workers.

Children who have Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)

The latest guidance for children with EHCPs states:

*Those with an EHC plan should be risk-assessed by their school/college in consultation with the local authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school/college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home... **Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.***

Therefore:

1. Students with EHCPs will be risk assessed and a discussion will take place with parents to agree whether the student is safe to be at home. The guidance states that many children with EHCPs can safely remain at home.

Children under the care of the Local Authority or social care

1. We will assume that children who are safely under the care of foster parents and who do not meet the criteria for 'key workers' above, will be safe to remain at home for the duration of the school closure.
2. Students under the care of social care, will be risk assessed and a discussion will take place with the social worker and parent/s regarding whether they need to attend PLC.

Further information regarding the details of this guidance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing> published 22nd March 2020.

Safeguarding all PLC students

PLC's role during the 'school closure' period is to support the Local Authority in safeguarding children and young people. As emergency legislation has lifted curriculum requirements for schools, we will continue to offer programmes that support the wellbeing and safeguarding needs of our students. This could be through an onsite or off site programme.

For as long as we have staff available, we will continue to monitor all PLC students in the following ways:

- All students will receive contact once a week to check they are safe and well.
- Some students who fit the vulnerable groups identified above, will receive daily contact.
- Students who meet the criteria for attending PLC will be supported by PLC through their on site or off site programme.
- Students will be sent guidance information on where they can find help and support during this time. Please see the attachments to this letter for further information.

PLC Emergency contact number – As the school office will not be manned during the school closure window, we are in the process of making arrangements for a single PLC emergency contact number to be shared with all students and parents. We will text / email you this number as soon as we have it in place.

In addition, the following South Glos contact numbers may be useful for you:

Access and Response Team – 01454 86 6000 (during working hours)

Emergency duty team – 01454 615165 (out of hours)

Police – 101 for non-urgent issues & 999 if urgent and an immediate response is needed

CHILDLINE – 0800 1111 or visit their website www.childline.org.uk

Samaritans – 116 123

Domestic Abuse Concerns - Next Link South Glos domestic abuse telephone help lines are open
8:30am – 5:30pm Monday to Friday and
9:30am – 1:00pm on Saturday 0800 4700 280

Mental health support - CAMHS (if young person is currently under CAMHS) – 01454 862431 or if you are concerned that you are not able to keep your child safe or they are not able to keep themselves safe then take them to the Accident & Emergency department at Bristol Children's hospital or call for an ambulance.

Mental health apps approved by NHS - <https://www.nhs.uk/apps-library/category/mental-health/>

Food banks links for families living in South Glos

<https://oneyou.southglos.gov.uk/eat-well/food-poverty-support/>

Parents worried about exploitation - <https://paceuk.info/> or for confidential help and advice, call Pace on 0113 240 5226

Resources and support during school closure

PLC will also provide some guidance regarding the provision of learning materials and on-line access to suitable website. However, we will not be able to guarantee providing specific work for individual students, or providing any marking or feedback during this time. We have included with this letter the following resources and useful links to help your child to access some on line learning and to support your children through this difficult time.

If you do not have access to ICT resources, please bring this to the attention of PLC staff during the weekly welfare contact and we will do our best to support you.

List of resources for students and parents.

1. **A guide sheet to help you to log in to Google Classroom** which is the platform we are using to communicate learning activities. On the help sheet you will find your child's email address and password which they will need to access Google Classroom. The document includes step by step instructions.
1. **A guide sheet to access Google Classroom through your mobile phone.**
2. **SENECA** – is another on-line learning tool for students. If your child has been directed to use SENECA, their teacher will have either given them a link, or will provide a link through Google Classroom.
3. South Glos LA link to useful home learning resources
<https://find-information-for-adults-children-families.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=JyM23zPICBc&familychannel=2-4&channel=family>
4. A useful handout – '**Helping you children cope with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak**'. This has been produced by the World health Organisation.
5. A Kooth.com card – free safe and anonymous online support for young people.
6. **10 top tips – remote learning for parents.**
7. **YOUTUBE Body Coach link – 'PE with Joe' – Monday to Friday at 9.00am**
8. **Free on-line education resources links**

FREE online education resources

BBC Learning

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/coursesearch/>

This site is old and no longer updated and yet there's so much still available, from language learning to BBC Bitesize for revision. No TV licence required except for content on BBC iPlayer.

Seneca

<https://www.senecalearning.com>

For those revising at GCSE or A level. Tons of free revision content. Paid access to higher level material.

Twinkl

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

Openlearn

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/>

Free taster courses aimed at those considering Open University but everyone can access it. Adult level, but some e.g. nature and environment courses could well be of interest to young people.

Blockly

<https://blockly.games>

Learn computer programming skills - fun and free.

Scratch

<https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/>

Creative computer programming

Ted Ed

<https://ed.ted.com>

All sorts of engaging educational videos

National Geographic Kids

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

Activities and quizzes for younger kids.

Duolingo

<https://www.duolingo.com>

Learn languages for free. Web or app.

Mystery Science

<https://mysteryscience.com>

Free science lessons

The Kids Should See This

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com>

Wide range of cool educational videos

Crash Course

<https://thecrashcourse.com>

You Tube videos on many subjects

Crash Course Kids

<https://m.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids>

As above for a younger audience

Crest Awards

<https://www.crestawards.org>

Science awards you can complete from home.

iDEA Awards

<https://idea.org.uk>

Digital enterprise award scheme you can complete online.

Paw Print Badges

<https://www.pawprintbadges.co.uk>

Free challenge packs and other downloads. Many activities can be completed indoors. Badges cost but are optional.

Tinkercad

<https://www.tinkercad.com>

All kinds of making.

Prodigy Maths

<https://www.prodigygame.com>

Is in U.S. grades, but good for UK Primary age.

Cbeebies Radio

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio>

Listening activities for the younger ones.

British Council

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find>

Resources for English language learning

Oxford Owl for Home

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

Lots of free resources for Primary age

Big History Project

<https://www.bighistoryproject.com/home>

Aimed at Secondary age. Multi disciplinary activities.

Geography Games

<https://world-geography-games.com/world.html>

Geography gaming!

Red Ted Art

<https://www.redtedart.com>

Easy arts and crafts for little ones

The Imagination Tree

<https://theimaginationtree.com>

Creative art and craft activities for the very youngest.

Toy Theater

<https://toytheater.com/>

Educational online games

← Free daily live workouts for kid...



Join me every day next week for a home workout 😊

Starting Monday 23rd March I'm going to be hosting a free workout aimed at kids LIVE on my YouTube channel.

With the schools closed and with us all spending more time at home, it's more important than ever that we keep moving and stay healthy and positive.

Exercise is an amazing tool to help us feel happier, more energised, and more optimistic.

The workouts will be fun and suitable for all ages and even adults can get involved.