



22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

The closure of Queen's Inclosure Primary School has been implemented to ensure we comply with the Government's latest social distancing policy and to reduce the chances of exposing our children and families to the risks of Coronavirus.

The Governors of QI believe it is really important to adhere to government guidance for schools. Guidance confirms that children will be eligible to attend school even if just one parent or carer is identified as a "critical worker". However, the Government has also said that "many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home", and that "every child who can be safely cared for at home should be".

As a key worker within the emergency services myself, I will be complying to the best of my ability with the guidance. This includes keeping my children at home. Although I qualify for emergency childcare, I also understand the importance of robust and immediate action to minimise possible infection and the spreading of the virus. As such, I have made arrangements within my family for my children to stay away from school and to access learning activities at home from the QI website.

Headteacher, Mrs Allen, and the school leadership team, will be making some challenging decisions in order to maintain levels of provision for key workers who have no means to keep their children at home, and for vulnerable children and those with Education Health Care Plans. As more and more families are required to self-isolate, including albeit a low number of staff from QI at present, there could well come a time when the school is unable to operate. Non-compliance with government guidance at this early stage will increase the likelihood of this outcome. As parents and carers, we **MUST** do everything we can to support this fight against the pandemic at a local level.

If you are a key worker in a critical sector, do you genuinely have no other option but to send your child to school? Please be realistic when considering this very challenging question. We must ensure that our children are safe and that the social distancing strategy is employed. This early lockdown by the Government on our families, undoubtedly causing short term pain, is key to fighting the long-term impact of Coronavirus. We **MUST** try to support this by keeping our children safe, minimising the risks of spreading the virus and minimising the risk to the wider community and the vulnerable. If you have **ANY** means to keep your children safely at home, please do so.

Mrs Allen and her staff are working hard to ensure that learning activities for our children, together with a proposed daily schedule, is available on the website. Moving forward, she will be reviewing the strategy for "business as usual" every week, to plan and progress towards the children's eventual return to school. The school will continue to update and inform parents during the difficult weeks ahead of us.

Take care of each other and thank you for your co-operation and support.

Marcus Cator  
Chair of Governors