



19th March 2020,

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following on from our last update, we are now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories by contacting the school via email to Enquiries.NPSB@nishkamschools.org. We will be in touch with you tomorrow to let you know what the provision for these children will look like.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by email. Please ensure your contact details are up to date with the school office to ensure you get all messages during the closure period.

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn. Please find attached our Home Learning Expectations outlining what children are expected to do while they are at home and how these expectations will be communicated with yourselves throughout this period.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](https://www.nhs.uk).

If you are concerned about a child's welfare or safety, please follow the government's guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse>

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Kind regards,

Mrs G Kaur
Interim Head Teacher

Home Learning Expectations

To assist in supporting your child's learning, you will receive a work-pack on Friday containing activities and tasks. This work is to help embed or practise previously taught skills/knowledge. **For any child who is not in school currently or will not be able to collect their pack tomorrow, these will be available for yourself or a friend/family member to collect from the school office.**

Your child must continue reading every day. They will be sent home with two books to read. Please also sign up to Oxford Owl - <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/> This is a free website that allows you to access e-books and other resources.

Online Learning

In addition, teachers will be contacting you every morning (Monday to Friday) via class Dojo with an English and Maths task. An exercise book will be issued to your child; any tasks are to be completed within this book so that it can be reviewed on return to school. Please help to ensure your child is maintaining the same quality in presentation and handwriting as would be expected in school. If, however, your child's class teacher is unable to supply a task in the morning due to unforeseen circumstances, we will endeavour to send out a task as soon as possible.

Years 2 – 6 must also access Spelling Frame and Times Table Rockstars daily. Years 2 and Year 6 are to access Read Theory as normal.

Making Learning Fun and Meaningful

Alongside these set tasks, please take some time to enjoy putting learning into real-life context through some activities you can do together. You could:

- Cook together - practise measuring and reading scales. Why not create your own recipe? You never know, you may be the next MasterChef or Great British Baker!
- Design and make something you can use: How about a box you can keep your precious things in?
- Become a scientist and perform experiments: Try making slime, perfume or bath-bombs! What ingredients give you the best outcomes? Try these weblinks for more ideas:
 - <https://sciencebob.com/>
 - <https://mommypoppins.com/kids/50-easy-science-experiments-for-kids-fun-educational-activities-using-household-stuff>
 - <http://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/>
- Keep a daily diary on what you are doing and how you are feeling whilst you're at home
- Get arty and create a masterpiece – how about a collage, a junk sculpture, a painting or a drawing? Try this crafty weblink for ideas:
 - <https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/crafts-for-kids/>
- Watch a range of films and write movie reviews
- Grow some plants and discuss how to keep them alive and healthy
- Become a historian and research an era that interests you – What artefacts and evidence is there that can tell you what this era was like and how people lived?

Keep Active

The fitness and well-being of your child is extremely important to us. Alongside academic work, please encourage your child to engage in daily fitness and well-being activities. YouTube has a wealth of free child yoga and keep-fit videos that you can access through computers, smart TVs and mobile phones. For other information, please see the NHS Change4life website:
https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities?gclid=Cj0KCQjwjctzBRCHARIsAO-1_Oo8HXWSVnRdg-kp2HRCk49Zxl-psfIoETsNsgeyIk20_hBX8geAlaAtjCEALw_wcB&gclidsrc=aw.ds

If you are able to leave the house and wish to take in some fresh air, the National Trust have removed the barriers and parking fees for a majority of their parks and gardens. Historic houses and cafes on site, however, will be closed. The aim of this is to ensure that families can still enjoy the outdoors safely and for free. For more information, please visit <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/news/our-latest-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19>