



The
ORATORY
RC PRIMARY
School

Oratory Primary School
Bury Walk
Cale Street
Chelsea
SW3 6QH
020 7589 5900

17th March 2020: 4pm

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all taking care of yourselves and your families.

We still do not know if and when school will close. However, many things are being worked on behind the scenes to prepare. I thought I would share with you some of our contingency arrangements so far. This is in the hope that you can feel as informed as possible. Please understand that the plans are subject to change as news evolves.

I do appreciate that many of you will have ideas about how the school might do things differently. However, in these circumstances, I will be making judgements by following government advice, and also with 15 years' experience of working at our school- I know what works effectively for our children, families and staff. Other schools will most probably have slightly different plans than ours, and that's how it should be. Each institution is different.

Keeping the school open as long as we need to

- ✓ You must take care of your own health and that of your family, following the latest advice from www.nhs.gov.uk. If you need to self-isolate, please let the school office know via email info@oratory.rbkc.sch.uk or 02075895900, as soon as you can.
- ✓ Inevitably, some of our staff may also need to self-isolate. Every day I will draw up a plan of cover so that classes are taught with the least disruption possible. You may notice that your child's class will be taught by a different member of staff. I will not be releasing information about staff absence, but please be assured that all classes will be safe and well cared for.

Planning home-learning for children

- ✓ Teaching staff are preparing packs containing two weeks' worth of home learning and teaching assistants are photocopying them.
- ✓ Packs will largely contain paper based tasks, supported by some online learning opportunities. We will not be teaching 'e-lessons' or live streaming. This is for a variety of reasons, including those of safeguarding and pedagogy.
- ✓ If we are closed for more than two weeks, further work will be given.
- ✓ Mrs Steinart and I have been thinking about how to disseminate these packs to all families if closure is announced. Currently we think that parents will be allowed to collect them from the school. Where families are self-isolating, we hope to draft support from

those parents who can hand deliver. Posting will be an option, but given that the packs will be heavy, I hope it will only be necessary in a few cases.

Supporting the most vulnerable children and families

- ✓ The local authority are mobilising support for schools so that we can continue to support families who rely on free school meals, SEN services and agencies such as CAMHS and Children's Services. Please be in touch with me by emailing directly to: jane.griffiths@oratory.rbkc.sch.uk. No family should ever feel embarrassed about asking for support if we are closed. It is what I am here for, and I will endeavour to do my best to help you remotely.
- ✓ Mr & Mrs Trivino are very kindly beginning to set up a voluntary database of parents who can link up with others in their area to help with shopping, dog walking etc if people are isolated. If you would like to be involved and you are happy for your data to be shared among the group, you can email them your post code (or whole address if you want) to oratoryfamilies@googlegroups.com. Once they have all the post codes organised they will create different groups.

Keeping in touch

- ✓ Steps to enable all staff to work remotely are being taken. At the point of closure, I will draft some communication protocols, so that you know how often class teachers will communicate with you and how quickly you can expect a response to any queries.
- ✓ Please use class WhatsApp groups responsibly. We must all be mindful that circulating information online can be irresponsible if it leads to undue anxiety. Information can also be inaccurate, so please rely on government updates and trusted news channels for the latest position. The constant 'ping' of notifications can be burdensome too! Remember that official school communication is posted via classlist.

I think that's all for the moment. Please remember- we remain open, and this letter is just to let you know our plans.

Once again, if these plans need to change, then they will- so please be patient!

With all good wishes,



Jane Griffiths

Headteacher