



# Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

## Dayspring Trust



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Headteacher: Mr D Airey (BSc Hons)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs G A Booth (BA Hons/M.Ed.)

DAI/TCG

19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

May I first of all start by thanking you for your support over the past couple of weeks. I feel that we have worked together to continue the provision of education in what have been some very testing times.

At all times, we have the health and safety and quality of education of our pupils at the heart of what we do. We have taken the decision that **school will be closed from 4.00 p.m. today (19/03/20)**. In line with the recent Government announcement, school will remain closed to pupils (except to children of key workers, and certain other vulnerable pupils) until further notice.

We are unable to open to pupils tomorrow because our staffing ratio would not be at a level which would provide a safe learning environment. This is in part due to the number of staff who are self isolating, and an inability to secure an adequate number of short term supply staff. We appreciate that this decision will impact on you which is why we took the decision to let you know tonight rather than tomorrow morning. We will send out full details of how our pupils can access their learning resources using our school website in due course.

You may have seen the Government announcement that Parents who are considered “**Key Workers**” will be supported with childcare arrangements during school hours. I am able to **confirm that from Monday 23 March, school will be open to pupils whose parents are Key Workers** and require this support.

If you are a Key worker, I would appreciate it if you could complete the Key Worker form (sent separately), and return this through ParentMail as soon as possible. It might be that you are asked to provide evidence that you are a key worker (such as a work email from your employer).

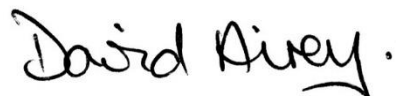
We are also looking at how we continue to support our families who are in receipt of Free School Meals. Whilst there is no current Government plan, there will be a national drive to make this happen. In the meantime, I am working with our Directors to come up with a short term solution to tackle this for our families.



We appreciate that there will be many questions over the coming weeks. We intend to keep you as up to date as we can with any new developments. If you do have any immediate questions, please complete a general enquiries form which is in the "Contact Us" section of the school website. Please note that these forms will be checked daily, but an immediate response will not be available.

Finally, we would like to wish you and your family well. We all need to do what we can to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Airey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent underline under the letter 'y'.

**Headteacher**