

# The Consortium Multi Academy Trust

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**Don't bring your child to school – unless absolutely necessary**

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

After the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday, the message can't be clearer – stay at home. While the Trust continues to provide **emergency child care provision** at our seven centres listed below – unless you are a designated key worker, are required to work away from your home AND have no other way to care for your child at home please do not send your child to school.

Some vulnerable child may also attend school, but again consider whether this is absolutely necessary – for families with vulnerable children that do stay at home we will offer you additional support in your home and will contact you regularly.

**For the safety of my staff and YOUR child – the best place is at home.** Consortium staff across the Trust have shown huge compassion, grit and determination. We want to support you, will comply with the directions of the Department for Education and we will be part of the solution to this national crisis. But is it clear that social distancing and minimising contact is the best way of halting the spread of covid-19. Please help us to protect our communities, if your child can stay at home do so. I have instructed staff at the centres to refuse entry to anyone that they feel is abusing the strict rules announced by the government. Please take care, be considerate and most of all stay connected.

Educational Centre Locations	Covering the following schools	Centre Leader
GLEBELAND	Barnby & North Cove and Glebeland	Debbie Thomas
MENDHAM	Mendham & St Edmund's	Susie Collins
RENDLESHAM	Rendlesham	Kevin Speirs
HENLEY	Henley & Helmingham	Steph Hawes
WINTERTON	Winterton	Caroline Richardson
SOUTHWOLD	Southwold	Bernie Cleland
YOXFORD	Yoxford & Peasenhall and Middleton	Gail Jerman

There is more information for parents and carers here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

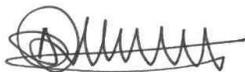
**Free School Meal vouchers:** we are continuing to attempt to get a system in place as soon as possible, eligible parents will receive further information as soon as possible.

**Remote learning for all pupils:** teachers and teaching assistants are working up further plans to keep your children engaged with learning, it is so important during this difficult time that children are engaged in meaningful tasks and have some structure to their day. It is easy for them to consider this an extended holiday, so to agree ground rules and a routine now, will avoid issues especially the dreaded boredom later.

I have been heartened to see how so many families have adapted, the creation of 'mummy' or 'daddy' schools in the home, participating in some PE with siblings and holding a skype assembly with the grandparents. During periods of disruption and crisis we can become two kinds of people – those that take the positives, shape our lives to the new situation, recognise that we can actually cherish this new found time together and are caring, considerate and compassionate. Or those that are not.

**Please stay safe, and if you can stay at home** – for those of you that are still working in the 'outside' whether that's in the NHS, procurement, transport, utilities, government, the emergency services, education, food industry  
THANK YOU.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Alders-Dunthorne', with a circular flourish at the beginning.

Andrew Alders-Dunthorne  
CEO & Principal

Cc: Trust Board and Members  
Locality Committee members  
All staff