

19 March 2020

Dear Parent and Carers,

Following on from the recent Government announcement I am writing to let you know that for the majority of children all REACH2 schools will close this Friday 20th March 2020. At present the Government has not indicated how long schools will remain closed but it is likely to be for several weeks. As a Trust we will continue to monitor the Government's updates and will keep you informed when any changes are about to happen. Please do ensure that you are regularly monitoring the REACH2 websites and your own school's website and other communication channels.

Whilst children are at home, our schools have worked tremendously hard to make sure that there are learning opportunities available and we continue to work them in order to enable distance learning using IT and computers and where this is not an option, the use of paper copies in the short term. What we do know is that all upcoming assessments and exams will be cancelled. This means the following assessments planned between April and July 2020 are cancelled:

- end of key stage 1 and key stage 2 assessments (including tests and teacher assessment)
- phonics screening check
- multiplication tables check
- science sampling tests

At the request of the Government many of our schools will remain partially open to facilitate and support the care of vulnerable children and the children of key workers who are in jobs that are keeping people safe from, and treating people with, the Coronavirus or are in jobs that are about keeping the country running.

Please rest assured that the welfare and wellbeing of children and families is our top priority. We will work with our schools to ensure that the support you have come to rely on continues as much as possible. We are aware that this support will need to be delivered in a different way, however we are committed to considering all options available to us. Within our schools and the Trust itself, we have teams of people who are working around the clock to ensure that we can continue to support your children. If you have concerns on how the changes may impact on your child/family, please ensure in the first instance that this is raised with your school who will look at what support may be required.

This is a very difficult time for children, parents, staff in schools and central Trust staff. We all have family and friends we care about and wish to protect. We have given reassurance to all our staff that they will continue to support you in our schools and support them if they are having family difficulties. I offer you the same reassurance that if you are facing a problem, we will do everything we can to help you overcome it. Whilst we are closed do get in touch either with your school or the central Trust if you are anxious or worried or have any questions.

Please take very good care of your children and yourselves and I hope that the situation improves quickly. I look forward to when we can welcome you back into our schools.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Lancashire', written in a cursive style.

Sir Steve Lancashire
REACH2 Academy Trust, Chief Executive Officer