



# Communitas Education Trust

19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Re: School closures across Communitas Education Trust (John Donne, Childeric, Goose Green and John Keats)**

As you will be aware the government announced yesterday that all schools in England will close to students on Friday this week (20 March 2020). The schools within the Trust have prepared well for these circumstances so that our children can continue their education and continue to receive pastoral care from home during the closure.

### **Learning from home**

Staff have created hard copy and online materials for our children. Schools will contact parents and carers directly to confirm these arrangements. We appreciate that access to printing and hard copies will become more difficult the longer the schools stay closed so most of the work will be online. The work we have planned will offer opportunities to practice skills as well as ideas for 'enjoying' learning together as families.

### **Pastoral care**

Very importantly, we will also offer support to all our families through regular contact with the schools and their pastoral services. 'Vulnerable' children and families will be supported remotely through existing pastoral structures in each school. All schools will contact parents and carers through their preferred communication systems to relay details of this.

### **Free school meals**

Children in receipt of free school meals will have access to food services and vouchers (as announced by the government) so that families remain supported throughout this time. All schools will contact parents and carers to relay details of this.

### **Children of 'key workers' and 'vulnerable' pupils**

The government announced, yesterday, that provision will be made by schools for the children of 'key workers' and for 'vulnerable' pupils. We await further clarity around this from the DfE. If you have any queries about this, please speak with your school by Friday. I need to make clear that the legal duty of a headteacher is always to ensure the safety of

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both pupils and staff. Schools will only open if it is safe to do so. We will ensure that parents and carers are kept informed about this.

We are aware that this is a worrying and challenging time for our families and the country as a whole. We would like to thank you for all of your support during this complex time and assure you that we will continue to work tirelessly for our children and families to ensure that you are supported over the next months. Please do use the contacts communicated by your school if you have any concerns or worries as we will be able to direct you to support services as necessary.

The trust, via schools, will keep you updated on a regular basis around any developments as information is released.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N Tildesley'.

Nick Tildesley  
(CEO)