

CALSHOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr M. Wingrove
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NEWSLETTER

www.calshot.bham.sch.uk

At Calshot Primary School we are always AIMING HIGH!

School Governor Message

It is with great sadness that we are having to end the spring term by closing the school early as decided by the government, without any certainty of when the school will reopen. I'm sure it will have been an emotional day for many of you. We are going through the most extraordinary situation in our lifetime and we will all have to work together, support one another and be kind to each other to get through this.

I want to take this moment to say the biggest thank you to Mr Wingrove, Miss Atterbury and ALL the amazing staff at Calshot who have worked extremely hard under very difficult circumstances to continue running the school and maintain a safe and happy environment. They have provided much needed routine for our children and kept everyone informed with regular updates in the face of constant changes to the situation and reacted to government and NHS advice as appropriate. Mr Wingrove has outlined the provisions being made for the children of key workers and vulnerable children at Calshot and I think we all greatly appreciate the efforts that will be made in this area in the coming weeks. As always, the children have come first at Calshot.

Thank you also to all the parents for their patience and continued support as they try to balance their own lives at work or at home around the ongoing situation and finally thank you to all the children who seem to have taken things in their stride. It touched my heart so deeply yesterday when a child asked Mr Wingrove when they would be allowed back to school.

I have been in touch with Mr Wingrove on a daily basis to ensure that the governing body can offer the right support as is needed and we will continue to do so and we will find different ways of meeting to ensure that we can stay in touch to discuss urgent matters. Of course the school will be in touch as soon as they can when things return to normal, but do keep across the news and check the school website.

Stay safe and stay strong.

Dharmesh Rajput

School Closure

At the end of today Calshot School will be closed to the majority of pupils, we open for pupils who are deemed as vulnerable or have a parent that is a key worker. I will still stress that school should only be used as a last resort. The DfE clearly states:

'The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the Government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.'

I have had a lot of parents requesting places as they are a key worker and have been identified on the extensive Government list but have also got partners at home and have still chosen to request a place. In the interest of all children's health I would request you reconsider if coming to school is necessary. On the other hand many parents especially NHS staff who work shifts have said they will only use school when required.

The children who have been given places will have a separate letter sent home with them to notify their parents of the school provision as of Monday.

For the parents whose children are staying home you might be inclined to create a minute by minute schedule. We all have high hopes and envisage hours of learning including online activities, science experiments and book reports but please remember this is a unique and different experience for our children too. The children can hear everything that is going on in the world around them and they also feel the constant tension and anxiety. For the children the idea of being off school for weeks on end may seem amazing however the reality is they may be stuck at home unable to leave or see their friends for some time. Over the coming weeks you will see an increase in behaviour, whether it's through anxiety, anger or just protests that they can't do things normally. This is normal behaviour and should be expected under the circumstances. What the children need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To know and feel like it's all going to be okay.

I look forward to seeing you all when we can get back to normal, it will be difficult but we will get through it.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support.

Mr. M. Wingrove

(Head Teacher)

