



NANSTALLON SCHOOL

AD VITAM PARAMUS

19 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Coronavirus: school closures and the government's expectations for schools**

I'm sure you have already seen or heard the announcement from the Secretary of State. After tomorrow, schools as providers of education will be closed 'for the foreseeable future'. The gravity of the announcement leaves me in no doubt as to seriousness of what we face. Schools have been asked to play a very different and vital role in the coming weeks and very possibly months.

From Monday, schools are being asked to open to provide care for vulnerable pupils and those whose parents or carers are key workers. This will be a totally different role for schools and school staff. It is primarily about care, not education.

The Secretary of State has indicated that he would like schools to continue to provide this care during the Easter holidays. This unprecedented announcement raises more questions than it answers.

My priorities are:

- to seek answers and guidance based on the information we have been given over the next 48 hours;
- to ensure the safety of staff who are most vulnerable and who live with family members that fall in to a vulnerable category;
- to serve the Nanstallon community to support vulnerable children and children of nursing, police, emergency service employees, delivery drivers, and all – as yet undefined – key workers to function;

We are in uncharted waters, and we realise that this is a huge challenge for parents, especially those who are working, and for whom grandparents are the usual childminding option. I know that collectively we will support the safety and care of our community in the coming weeks and months.

I will update you all as I learn more and know what decisions to take.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr B Stephenson

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