



# Bevendean Primary School and Nursery

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Headteacher: Mr. M Giddens  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr. M Dally  
Assistant Headteacher: Miss. S Miller

## A place for everyone to succeed and thrive

### Partial School Closure – COVID-19

Monday, 16 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter is to provide you with some additional information regarding the decision to partially close the school from 12.45pm during this challenging period. As you will be aware, we currently have our Year 5 & 6 children, and staff, isolating. Although this has impacted enormously on staffing levels, we have until today, managed to cover these staff absences internally.

However, from today, the number of staff unable to attend work has increased to a point where we are unable to provide the necessary safe cover. More than half of the school's Midday Meal Supervisors are not in school, and three-quarters of our premises / cleaning team are also absent. Therefore, we are concerned about keeping children adequately supervised and safe on the playground during lunchtime. This partial school closure will also ensure that our current reduced cleaning team will be able to get an adequate level of cleaning completed for the next day.

Any decision to close a school is a challenging one, however, the health and safety and well-being of pupils and staff is the guiding factor. Our decision to partially close for the afternoons this week is a short-term measure which will hopefully get us through these difficult times.

As we know, these are exceptional circumstances and these tough decisions ensure that we can maintain as much learning for children as possible, especially in the core subjects of English and Maths over the next four days.

It is essential that everyone is following the Government guidance during this lockdown period. This means that:

- *You must not leave or be outside of your home unless where permitted by law. This may include: Work and volunteering;*
- *You can leave home for work purposes, or to provide voluntary or charitable services, where you cannot do this from home;*
- *You can leave home to buy things at shops which are permitted to open. For instance to buy food or medicine, or to collect any items - including food or drink - ordered through click-and-collect or as a takeaway, to obtain or deposit money (e.g. from a bank or post office), or to access critical public services.*

We aim to resume normal school hours from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November. However, we will continue to keep you updated with emails / notifications, and the front page of the website so please check this daily in case anything changes.

I would like to thank all parents / carers for their support during this time.

Mr M Giddens

**HEADTEACHER**