

25th March 2020

Website: [www.acrehall.trafford.sch.uk](http://www.acrehall.trafford.sch.uk) Twitter: @AcreHall

## School Closure Information

As you will know Acre Hall Primary School is closed until further notice under the UK Government response to the COVID—19 crisis. We are only permitted to allow pupils of 'Key Workers' ( only where they have exhausted all other options for childcare ) and 'Vulnerable' pupils in to school.

The link below explains the above definitions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We have been asked to provide 'Emergency Childcare' for these pupils; this is not normal schooling. If you feel that you are in the above categories and have exhausted all options for childcare, please contact school and we will endeavour to help. During school holiday periods or after school hours you can contact Trafford for information about other places which may provide 'Emergency Childcare'. There is a link to their contact page at the bottom of our website home page [www.acrehall.trafford.sch.uk](http://www.acrehall.trafford.sch.uk)

School has been instructed to reduce the number of staff present in school at any one time. This is to reduce the possibility of large numbers of staff becoming infected with the virus at the same time. We have received specific advice from the Department of Education regarding additional cleaning and safety measures we should take to keep pupils who attend and staff safe at this time.

Staff will be part of a rota system so that they will do some 'Emergency Childcare Cover' each week and also complete training tasks etc whilst working from home. We have also asked class teachers to connect with their pupils as much as possible by sending a class newsletter; making phone calls to pupils to 'check in' with them and also through sharing information such as useful websites etc through the class and school twitter accounts—see twitter guide—<https://help.twitter.com/en/twitter-guide> if you would like to set up a twitter account for yourself. You can follow us and get notifications whenever we 'tweet' information . Our twitter name is @AcreHall We advise everyone to use this system. You can also send us photos of activities your child completes and we may retweet them so that all our other pupils can see. This is a brilliant way of keeping in touch at this difficult time.

## What can parents do?

This is an unprecedented and challenging time that we are all going through. Who would have thought just a few months ago that schools would close and the current restrictions would have been put in place?

This is an emergency situation that is impacting the whole world but we will get through it. Each of us face daily difficulties to do the best for our children and ourselves. As parents you are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. No one can replicate normal schooling at home so our advice is to spend time with your child doing normal things 'mindfully'; bake together, plant seeds in the garden, complete a project; make a model together— all the things that you never get time to do in the normal hustle and bustle of life. You can balance this with some online learning from the various websites below. Do give your children some time to play their electronic games—about the same as what they would have on a normal school day. When schools return, as they will in time, we will be working hard to catch up on aspects of the normal curriculum that have not been covered but if you can spend time with your children now, they will reap the benefits of this.

We did not have much time to prepare for the school closure; some staff were able to send home work books and packs of work for children but others were off ill at the time. Most of that work will have been completed now. We can not send home more paper home learning packs.

Instead we suggest you try the following;

- Some reading every day—various online systems eSome writing every day; keep a diary, write a letter, write a story about a character from a book
- Some practical 'hands on maths' - cooking or calculating money
- Some fine motor work—lego modelling or cutting out pictures or picking up small toys
- Some physical exercise everyday
- Some art or music whenever possible
- Some sort of goal or project to work on which keeps brains ticking over—making something

The website <https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/resources-list-for-home-learning> has lots of website links for free home learning resources

The website <https://mentalhealth-uk.org/help-and-information/covid-19-and-your-mental-health/> has ideas for keeping positive mental health for both adults and children during the current crisis

If you send us pictures—via email or twitter—of the things your child is doing we would love to share them on our newsletter. Next newsletter will come out after the holiday.






Keep Safe Everyone!

# We are here for you.

## Trafford's Community Response

COVID 19 (Coronavirus) is affecting us all.

Do you need help with anything such as:

-  **Food shopping**
-  **Getting fuel (if you're on a pre-paid meter)**
-  **Getting essential medication**
-  **Looking after pets**
-  **Someone to talk to**

Across the borough of Trafford, your community of charities, businesses, community groups and the council have all come together to make sure you have the support you need during this challenging time.

### **Get Help – 0300 330 9073**

If you live alone, are struggling to make ends meet, are self-isolating or generally in need of advice or support please contact 0300 330 9073 (8.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday).

The advice line is for Stockport, Oldham, Rochdale and Trafford. Please select option 4 for Trafford, then ignore the options for 'goods and services' or 'pensions' - just hold the line and we will signpost you to one of the Trafford Community Response Hubs to access the support you need.

### **Give Help: [thrivetrafford.org.uk/covid-volunteer](http://thrivetrafford.org.uk/covid-volunteer)**

If you are able to volunteer in your community, or are a local business who can support with anything from supplies to logistics – please visit the Thrive Trafford website:

[www.thrivetrafford.org.uk/covid-volunteer](http://www.thrivetrafford.org.uk/covid-volunteer)

(If you are part of a community group who are already offering support to your community – we could help with supplies, training, environmental health and safeguarding support. Please email:  
[social.investment@traffordhousingtrust.co.uk](mailto:social.investment@traffordhousingtrust.co.uk))



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