



Dear Parents / Carers, Pippins Staff and Committee Members,

Following the Government's announcement on Wednesday, all schools – including Early Years settings such as Pippins – will be closed from the end of the day today until further notice. This means that, for many of our children, today will be their last day at Pippins for the foreseeable future.

This is a time of unprecedented change, with the Government's response, advice and guidelines evolving daily. Working through these circumstances, we hope that you can understand and support the actions that we on the Management Committee are taking in order to help tackle Coronavirus and the significant impact it is having on our community and our country.

The Government has confirmed that for the foreseeable future, all schools are being asked to provide care for the children of key workers, so that these key professionals can remain at work during this period of need. We are also being asked to ensure that those children with Education, Health & Care Plans, or who are more vulnerable, are also provided for. The Government has not yet clarified exactly which professions will be considered key workers, and how it envisages schools will provide this service. We expect that these terms will become clearer over the coming days so that we can communicate and plan our operating ability with staff, in order to deliver this provision appropriately. We will communicate with all parents and carers fully once we know more.

Throughout the closure, senior staff will be able to access Tapestry, so please do upload entries and photos so staff can see what your child has been up to! We hope that we may be able to provide regular ideas and activities online, as a way for children and parents to have access to a 'virtual Pippins' at home and keep in touch with our staff. We appreciate that this will likely be a challenging time for your family and we hope to be able to support you through it to the best of our abilities. There are many fun and educational suggestions for entertaining Early Years children already available on YouTube, Facebook and the web. One great resource, Twinkl, has put together a home learning pack for use during the Coronavirus schools closure period, which is freely available at <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/covid19-school-closures>. They also have their usual great resources for preschool children in the EYFS section on their website.

We would like to thank all staff, parents and committee members for their support, understanding and flexibility over the last few days, and in the coming weeks and months, as we adapt our provision at this unusual and uncertain time. We will keep in contact with you as we navigate this period together. Please look after yourselves and your families.

Yours faithfully,  
Sara Wallace & Marie Hull  
Co-Chairs, Pippins Management Committee