



Dear Parents/Carers

Support and Assistance during School Closure

At Abbots Green Academy, we wish to ensure that all our children and families are able to access support services if necessary, during the current school closure. We understand that this unexpected closure may be difficult for some families and hope that the following contact details might help those needing additional support. Below are contact details of a variety of external agencies that families may wish to call on for support should the need arise:

<u>Family Lives Support Group</u> Help and support to families that are struggling	www.familylives.org.uk	0808 800 2222
<u>Action for Children</u> Support and help for vulnerable children and their families	Actionforchildren.org.uk Advice.actionforchildren.org.uk	
<u>Homestart</u> Helps families with mental health/bereavement/isolation	Email: info@home-start.org.uk	01164645490
<u>Young Minds Support</u> Mental health support for children and young people		0800 802 5544 Free and Confidential Helpline
<u>Relate</u> Support for families	www.relate.org.uk	02392 827026
<u>KOOTH</u> Free Online Counselling up to 10pm	www.kooth.com	Mon-Fri 12pm-10pm Sat-Sun 6pm-10pm
<u>Childline</u> Support for children/young people	www.childline.org.uk	0800 1111
<u>NSPCC</u> Support for children	www.nspcc.org.uk help@nspcc.org.uk	0800 800 5000
Abbots Green Academy Safeguarding Team	jouttley@abbotsgreenacademy.co.uk Angmorrison@abbotsgreenacademy.co.uk Lauraarfi@abbotsgreenacademy.co.uk natalieheath@abbotsgreenacademy.co.uk	

Children Who Receive Free School Meals

The Unity Schools Partnership Trust are putting together a plan to support families. This is likely to involve vouchers being issued to parents which can be used towards purchasing groceries. We will inform parents in the coming days how you will receive these. However, should families need additional practical support with food/shopping during this time, there are three organisations in the local area who will be able to help:

Gatehouse Foodbank is working in partnership with other organisations, churches and individuals throughout Bury, supported by local County and Borough Councillors providing three days of emergency food to local people in crisis. Those in need are identified by local care professionals. Gatehouse also signposts people to organisations able to help solve the longer-term problem.

If you need help or know someone else who does, vouchers are provided using a referral system. Please use the number below to find out how this works.

Phone 01284 754967
Email info@gatehouse.org.uk
Address Gatehouse
Dettingen Way
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 3TU

West Suffolk Vineyard Church Storehouse is a foodbank ministry which gives away food bags through agencies within Bury St Edmunds, to people who are living on the streets or are unable to provide enough food for themselves or their families. These food bags are offered completely free of charge and with a no-strings attached policy. As well as emergency food, Storehouse provides toiletries and nappies for clients of our local Health and Social Care Services.

If you or someone you know would like to receive a food bag, you can get a referral from agencies throughout Bury St Edmunds. Please use the number below to find out how this works.

Phone 01284 765874

The Best Before Shop collects surplus food to stop it going to the landfill and then sells to people on a 'pay as you feel' (minimum donation £1) basis to individuals and families from the local area, especially those on low or zero incomes.

The shop is open every Tuesday (10am-2pm)

Email bestbeforebse@gmail.com
Address **4 Elseys Yard**
Risbygate Street
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 3AA

We are very aware that having the children at home all day, every day may present a number of challenges. Our staff are working extremely hard to provide additional support to those that need it. We are in the process of updating our Rainbow Room page on the school website which will give you details of how you can access further support in a wide range of areas, from people that you know and trust.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Morrison
Head teacher