

School closure- Wednesday 13 December

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good evening. Following an extraordinary set of circumstances today I am communicating the closure of the school premises to all students tomorrow, Wednesday 13 December.

Shortly after 10 am this morning the school was hit by a lightning strike. This strike was so severe it caused substantial damage to the infrastructure of the school. As I write we have areas of the school without heating, lighting, internet and operational fire alarm systems

Whilst we have people on site trying to address these issues they can give no assurances about these concerns being addressed by tomorrow. As a consequence, we will shut down tomorrow.

The reason for closing is that we will need people on-site throughout the day to assess the condition of the site, the fire arrangements and undertake any repairs necessary. We will work through the day to try and open in whatever capacity we can on Thursday 14 December.

We currently have one area of the school that is operational and that means we can run this evening's production. We will update you on any changes to arrangements for performances tomorrow.

This also means that we will have a small facility to support a limited number of students on site. This would apply to children of critical workers, children who are looked after or children who have exceptional circumstances known to the school.

If you feel these circumstances apply to you then please fill in the form linked below and we will contact you in the morning if we can accommodate your request. <https://forms.gle/RNw9r15ZZd3JvSND6>

Students entitled to Free School Meals

If your child/children are entitled to free school meals and you would like a packed lunch provided for them tomorrow, that can be collected from school between 12 - 12.30, please complete this Google form by 7 am Wednesday 13th December. <https://forms.gle/pdcKx53nw1SD9u5g7>

Packed lunches can be collected within the times stated from the school canteen hatch windows which face the Fawcett Rd entrance car park.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank your children for their mature and supportive behaviour today. We locked the school down for over two hours to assess the risk and they were patient and supportive. They were superb. It has been reported in some media outlets that staff were hurt and I can confirm that some staff received medical checks but everyone is well.

As has been the case previously my number one priority must be health and safety in such circumstances. Staff will be setting work and available to receive responses through the day but please use the information below to support your child's learning.

Working from Home

Parents/Students

If you have a child working at home, they should follow these two steps to participate in home learning.

- **Step 1** - Ensure they have completed all of their homework and any additional learning set via Class Charts (<https://www.classcharts.com/student/login>)

This allows students to keep up to date with homework and any other work that has been set on Google Classroom, Showbie or any of our other platforms.

This is the first thing they should spend their time at home doing.

- **Step 2** - Students should use the home learning website <https://sites.google.com/priorysouthsea.org/priory-school-home-learning-20/home> to complete additional work, using their usual school timetable as though they are in school.

When you complete work from this website, the work should be shared with your teacher either via email or physical work upon your return to school and the lesson.

Additionally, students across all year groups have links for all literacy and reading programmes on the following section of the school website, <https://www.priorysouthsea.org/literacy/>

We hope to be open as soon as we possibly can. I expect the situation to be constantly evolving throughout the day tomorrow but will aim to communicate as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mr Vaughan