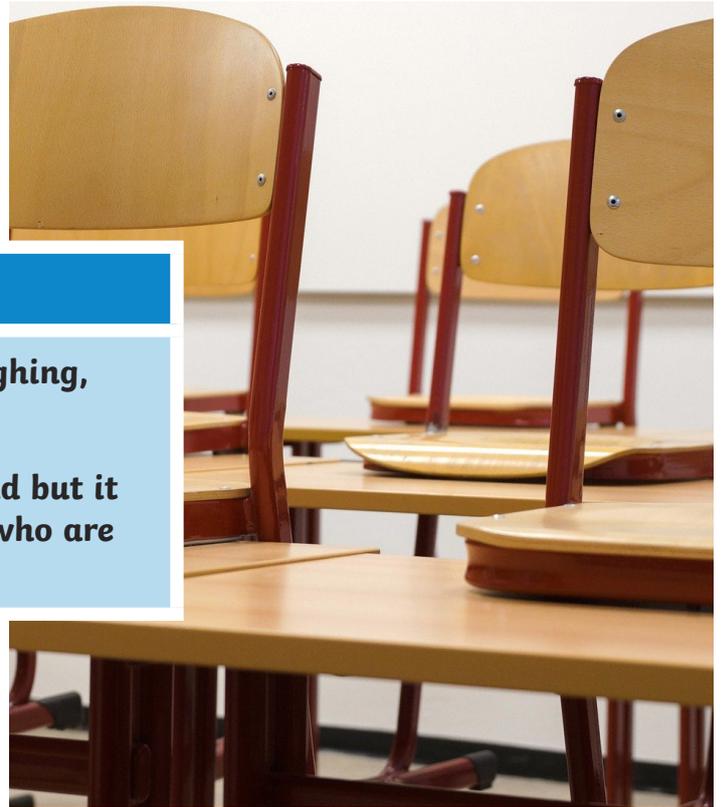




UK Government Says Schools to Close from Friday



What is COVID-19?

- **COVID-19 is a coronavirus. It can cause coughing, tiredness, difficulty breathing and a fever.**
- **The government says that most cases are mild but it can cause more severe symptoms for people who are already ill or elderly.**

UK schools will close from today to help stop the spread of the **virus** COVID-19. On Wednesday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson explained that he was doing this to keep everyone safe.

He said schools will stay closed “until **further notice**.” Many children could be learning from home, starting on Monday. This is to help slow the spread of a coronavirus called COVID-19.

Schools will be open for some children, such as those whose parents are key workers.

These are people who might work in the **NHS** or the police, and are working to keep everyone safe.

Teachers, delivery drivers and people who care for older people are also key workers.

Boris Johnson thanked teachers for the work they will do.

“By looking after the children of key workers,” he said, they will be, “playing a **critical** part”.

Schools have closed in other countries, such as Ireland and China, due to COVID-19. Some teachers used the Internet to teach their class while others sent work home.

Around the world, people are taking action to help children learn. The National Trust owns a lot of gardens and parks. It’s opening them for free.

People can visit as long as they do social distancing. This is where they keep apart to help

Photos: Schools will close from Friday.

stop the virus spreading.

Online learning companies, such as Twinkl, are offering free resources to help children carry on their learning at home or in school.

Musician Tom Fletcher shared a clip on social media of him doing an experiment. He was showing his children how pepper grains react when you put soap on your fingertip.

The NHS is telling people to wash their hands for the length of time it takes them to sing ‘Happy Birthday’ twice.

Glossary

virus	A very small particle that can cause an illness.
further notice	Until people are told to do something.
NHS	National Health Service, responsible for health in the UK.
critical	Really important.