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Dear Parents / Carers

Key Workers Update

Overnight the Government has issued the information around key worker occupations with the intention that these parents may need childcare provided by the school from next week. Please see an overview of this information below.

This is obviously quite a long list and the problem that schools now face is that, in order to comply with the Government's request to minimise the number of children in school to limit the spread of the virus, we need to ensure that our pupil numbers remain low.

We appreciate the support of our amazing community in all that you do to help our school. This is a time of national crisis and we are working around the clock to do all that we can to prepare for the next steps. I would urge that all parents note that the Government have announced, already, that schools are to close today. **This new provision is for limited pupils and is classed as emergency support.** I already have reduced (and constantly diminishing) staffing resources so we need our families to be responsible and fair in asking for our support. Misuse of this emergency provision is likely to put our children and staff at risk and this could lead to a full closure in the near future.

For this reason, we are asking parents to pay particular attention to the phrase 'only for those children who absolutely need to attend'. Even if one parent is a key worker, please consider whether your child / children really need /s that place. Please look through this list carefully and also evaluate what provision you could provide for your child/ children at home.

In light of the final guidance therefore, if you have not contacted us and you feel that you are eligible for access to school support in our **emergency provision**, we would therefore like to ask any parents to email us by **12 noon today** to let us know:

Your Employers Name:

Your Key Worker role:

If parents have already let us know this information and have been identified as a key worker needing care for children please text, email or call us if you can now make alternative plans or will only need reduced provision by 12 noon today.



I will be in touch as soon as I possibly can be to confirm further details - you



will appreciate that getting this sorted requires a great deal of administration and strategic planning in a very short space of time.

Many thanks once again for your support and understanding at this very challenging time.

Kind regards
Sharon Irwin

Government Guidance - Key Workers

Closures of schools, childcare and other educational settings

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#).

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the Government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open **only for those children who absolutely need to attend**.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Schools are therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

We know that schools will also want to support other children facing social difficulties and we will support Headteachers to do so.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
- Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
- Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support

staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

If your school is closed then please [contact your local authority](#), who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend.