

20 March 2020

Dear All,

I cannot thank you all enough for your support, understanding and patience with regard to the plans we are developing and putting in place in reaction to the Government's announcements about school closures. As you probably have realised, information and guidance are changing rapidly all the time.

Overnight guidance about childcare in school for children of key workers was published. Schools are closing in an effort to stem the spread and infection of the corona virus. We are now being asked to provide childcare for key or critical workers and vulnerable children.

The principle is that if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The Government is asking parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible – schools will remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

As a result, we now need to reassess the capacity we will require to support our families. We will need you to complete the attached form and return it as soon as possible and certainly **no later than 8.30 am on Monday, 23rd March.**

We really do understand the difficulties caused for so many of you. However, as you complete the form, please remember **that if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. This will help stem the spread of the virus.**

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. The school will be in touch with those this applies to.

Key workers have been identified by the Government as:

- Health and Social Care. This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector
- Education and childcare. This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid-19 response
- Public safety and national security. This includes civilians and officers in the police (including key contractors), Fire and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles
- Transport. This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response
- Utilities and Communication. This includes staff needed for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies, to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, services and waste disposal
- Food and other necessary goods. This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution and sale, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g hygiene, medical etc)
- Other workers essential to delivering key public services
- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response

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You will be asked to state which category you fall into and whether you require childcare. Please remember, the purpose of reducing the school population is to stem the spread and infection of the virus. **Please keep your children at home if you can, even if you are a key worker.**

Full guidance for parents and carers can be found here:

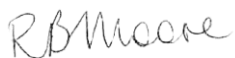
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers?utm_source=3af9bd53-8b24-49d0-92be-34d607ef773a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. Children should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

We know that this situation is putting pressure on families and staff. The staff are committed to doing all they can to support families at this time. Whilst I have had a giggle at some of the things parents have shared on social media, these posts also highlight the frustrations and worries we all have – fighting over computers, internet outages, parents not knowing the methods schools use to name a few. We as a school are committed to staying in touch with you whilst we are closed and we will be able to take telephone calls and emails - we will help in any way we can. All that really matters at this time is that we stay safe and well and look after each other as best we can. One huge way of doing that is adhering to the advice about stopping the spread of the virus – hand washing, social distancing, self isolation where required and “catch it, bin it, kill it”.

Again, thank you again for all your support and kindness. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,



Rhonda Moore
Chief Executive Officer