



20 March 2020

Dear Parents

We have now been advised of which critical workers are considered 'Key' Workers during the COVID-19 outbreak. The list is attached to this letter.

The government has confirmed that from Monday 23 March, schools will only be open to provide care for children of key workers and vulnerable children. This is not a statutory requirement – schools are being asked to help as part of a national response. The school will be open between 9.00am and 3.30pm. This is about keeping children safe and allowing key workers to go to work and care for the sick, or to keep food supply chains moving. If you are on the list of key workers but are not currently at work, you should not take the place that could be offered to another family.

We will be taking a three-phase approach and planning for the following

1. Next two weeks
2. Easter holidays
3. The summer term

In the short term, school will be closed from Monday morning onwards. We need parents to inform school immediately if you believe you meet the key worker criteria and would like your child to be considered for a place in the school during this period. Also attached to this letter is a questionnaire and we ask you to complete this if you are a key worker. Depending on numbers, we may need to prioritise places.

The latest government scientific advice on the proportion of pupils has been set by the government as a maximum of 20% of the school population in order to maintain efforts to delay the spread of the virus.

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 wherever possible.



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- 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.
- If you are a key worker but there is another person who can safely look after your child please do not take a space that could be offered to another family.

School will close today at 3.30pm and we will inform you when the government tells us it is safe to reopen. Schools are closed, but we are doing what we can to support our key worker families, given these unprecedented circumstances.

If you are a key worker, and require childcare provision from Monday, please complete the attached questionnaire and return it to school immediately. If you are currently at work and unable to complete the questionnaire now please call us and we will take your answers over the telephone. It may be that you currently do not qualify for childcare now, but your circumstances may change if you are called into public service. If this is the case you should contact us immediately and we will assess your changed circumstances and offer care if needed. We will contact everyone, as soon as possible (before Monday) who completes the questionnaire to confirm whether your child is eligible for a place, and to whom we are able to offer a place from Monday.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Kind regards

Julian Rose
Headteacher



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