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JC/jfh

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Dear Parents,

EMERGENCY CARE IN SCHOOL

I am sure that you will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement on Wednesday 18 March about general school closures but continuing provision for children of **key workers and vulnerable children who absolutely need to attend**. I am writing to give you an update on our plans for this, following government advice which I have only received this morning.

School will close at the end of today Friday 20 March and there is no expectation that any pupil will then attend school until the advice from Government changes. You are asked to **keep your children at home, wherever possible** but we have been asked to stay open for children who are vulnerable and those whose parents **are critical to the COVID-19 response** if they are unable to find alternative arrangements for their children.

PARENTS, OF THESE GROUPS, MUST ONLY SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE NO OTHER MEANS OF CHILD CARE.

WE ARE RUNNING AS AN EMERGENCY SERVICE ONLY TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF INFECTION.

These groups include but are not restricted to:

- Health Care Staff
- Social Care Staff
- Education Staff
- Military Personnel
- Emergency Services
- Council workers needed for essential work
- Drivers delivering essential goods
- People working in the health and social care supply chain
- Food production and distribution
- Financial services
- Utilities (gas/electric/water etc)
- Volunteers supporting the critical sectors

Please note that there is no requirement for children of these key workers to attend school. You are encouraged to make alternative arrangements if you can do so.

The Government is also asking us to continue to provide education and support for children who have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP), children who have a social worker assigned to the family, those from families receiving Early Help and children receiving support from MABS.

Again, there is no requirement that children in these groups have to come to school, but they will be welcome should parents or carers choose this option.

Here is an extract from the [Government advice](#) and you are asked to 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.*
- *Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.*

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision.

Lunch- We will still provide a meal for your child should they require one. Please note that this may not be a hot meal depending on delivery restraints.

Proof: You may be required to show proof to a member of staff that you are working in a key worker position so please bring along something if you are able to.

Time: The school will be open from **9.00am until 3.15pm. (there will no breakfast or after school club)**

Where to meet: Dependant on numbers, we ask that initially you drop off & collect children through the main entrance in school uniform.

What will be taught: The Government has stated that the pupils coming in will be receiving care provision and not full academic learning. We hope to make it motivating and fun!

Staffing: There will only be a **limited number of staff** available as many will be working from home due to underlying health conditions or if they live with someone with underlying health conditions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support through these unprecedented times. Please be assured that I will continue to update you as the situation changes and I can assure you that we will continue to work for the best interests of your children at this challenging time.

Keep in touch and keep safe & healthy.

With very best wishes,

Mrs J Cooper
Headteacher