

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

As you are aware, school will be closed to all children, except children of key workers and our most vulnerable pupils from Monday, until further notice. We will be providing childcare, but not formal education. Children who do not attend will not be missing out on school education in comparison with those who do. The government has said:

“Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.”

Children of Key workers

The government's definition of 'key workers' has now been published. The full details of this can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> . The sectors defined as critical to the COVID-19 response are:

Health and Social Care
Education and Childcare
Food and other necessary goods
Transport

Key public services
Local and national government
Public safety and national security
Utilities, communication and financial services

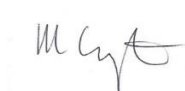
The government has asked all parents to keep their children at home wherever possible: “If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The fewer children making the journey to school, the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.”

Our school will have very limited capacity from Monday 23rd March. I also have a duty of care to staff to ensure they are put at the least amount of risk possible, as do parents to their children. This means we may have to prioritise this list of key workers if demand exceeds our capacity. Therefore you must not request childcare unless you qualify as a key worker AND your child cannot be safely cared for at home. You may have to make adjustments as a family to accommodate this.

Further information regarding the arrangements for children who will be in school from Monday onwards will be sent to relevant parents later today. I will also send information about arrangements for accessing Free School Meals to those that are entitled.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we try to respond to the many repercussions of the COVID-19 emergency. Further information will follow later today. The office staff will be available from 11:30 if you need to discuss things.

Yours sincerely



Helen Carpenter
Head teacher