

Dear Families,

Following on from the government's announcement on Wednesday, concerning the provision of childcare to those considered vital to the response to Covid-19, a list of Critical workers was released at midnight yesterday and is set out below. Our school is small, but we value those who we may need to call upon extra help, when they are helping us. We are sorry that we can only offer limited provision, due to staffing issues and the constraints of our site.

### **Critical Workers**

**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 already have made arrangements to ensure their child is kept safely at home, or in a smaller group. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be, as mixing with others outside home creates additional risk.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable, or has a parent who is a critical worker, then limited childcare provision will be available for them.
3. 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 health conditions.
4. 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, otherwise they may become ill or be a source of the infection themselves.**
5. **No child, parent or member of staff with symptoms of Covid-19, or with underlying health issues should come to school. They should inform us by telephone and isolate.**

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot currently provide safe childcare at home, then your children will be prioritised for childcare provision:

#### **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 arms-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.**

### **Vulnerable groups:**

**These have been set out as:**

- 1) Children with an Education and Health Care Plan**
- 2) Children in Care, Children in Need, or with a Child Protection Plan**
- 3) Children who may need additional care e.g: Young Carers, or those with other risk factors, such as a disability (unless there is a need for isolation)**

Having read the above can you please confirm whether:

1. You are classed as a key worker and whether anyone else in your home is?
2. Your child/ward may be considered as vulnerable?
3. At the current time are you intending on sending your child to school on Monday?
4. Will your family require a Free School Meal on Monday? (This is for those already registered due to income and does not apply to those in receipt of Universal FSM, unless you or they fall into the categories above.)

**Please be aware that due to the rapidly changing nature of this situation, school remaining open for vulnerable children and children of key workers will be risk assessed on a daily basis with regards to staff availability and safety of pupils and staff.** We already have some staff in isolation and we are deep cleaning areas of the school in preparation for our eventual return, so our numbers will be limited to ensure adequate social distancing for the children and adults involved. **If our provision cannot meet your needs, and you have no other safe provision for your child over the next week, please let us know and contact the local authority, who can direct you to the most appropriate childcare to meet your needs. Full details can be found in** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

**On receiving your email today, school will process the responses and we will contact you via email before the close of school today with details of the provision we can offer you for Monday.**

Many thanks for your continued patience and understanding, at this unusual time.

Yours faithfully,

Lorna Legg