



Headteacher: Mrs. Jane Mullarkey
Deputy Headteacher: Ms Trish West

Friday 20th March, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the latest Government guidance, I write to provide you with an update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and our efforts to reduce the spread. **As you will be aware all schools, all places of worship and many businesses in the UK will be closing today until further notice.**

The advice is if children can stay safely at home, they should. This is to limit the chance of the virus spreading. **That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.** All families must follow the strict guidance in order to prevent the spread and enable the country to be back on its feet as soon as possible.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

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. **And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

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:

- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Essential transport links
- Utilities, communication and financial services

We will be open to a limited number of children who cannot be cared for safely at home, and, in order to minimise the risk to staff in school, we will provide childcare on a rota basis. I therefore need to know how many children cannot be cared for at home, and urge you to contact the school office before 1pm today so that I can coordinate my team. Again, I would like to reiterate that every child who can be cared for at home should be in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued support at this very challenging time.

Mrs. Jane Mullarkey
Head Teacher

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