

20/03/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

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. Although the risk is reduced, there is still a higher risk of infection if your children come to school.**

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors. Parents working in these sectors should try 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:

1. **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be, for example cared for by parent in a non-critical role.**
2. If a child is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational 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 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.**

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

Having read the information above, if you still need childcare for some of the week, you will need to book it through the school office. Please let us know ASAP which days you would like. Bookings will close for each day at least 24 hours beforehand so appropriate plans can be made. Children can **ONLY** attend if they are booked in – please do not turn up with them if they haven't been booked in.

The provision in school will be based in the hall – children will enter and exit through the green door. The door will be open for children from 8.45am for 10 minutes. A register will be taken as normal. Please phone in absence as you normally would if your child has been booked and is then unable to come in.

School lunch will be available for all children – we do not know currently what the menu choices will be. If you would normally receive it free, it still will be. Otherwise, please pay in the usual way. We request

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that if your child is attending the provision, they have a school lunch wherever possible. Of course, they can bring a packed lunch if needed.

The children will not be doing schoolwork – they will be participating in a range of fun activities planned by a team of school staff. Either Ms Blood or Miss Christie-Davies will be on site very day. There will be a teacher in charge of provision each day and a number of other school staff supporting them.

Children do not need to wear school uniform but they do need to wear activity clothes with school shoes or trainers. Please make sure they are clothes that can get messy!

Currently, the school cannot offer care over the Easter holidays – we simply do not have enough available staff. I have asked the Local Authority to provide details of childcare that may be available for children of keyworkers. I will let you know when I get further details.

Please contact Mrs Christie-Davies or myself if you have any concerns. Please be respectful that, like yourselves, our staff are putting themselves and their families at risk by providing this care.

Kind regards



Katie Blood
Headteacher

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