



Sunday 22nd March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Please see the latest advice for parents from the government:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Unhelpfully, this was different from the guidance given to schools, childcare providers, colleges and local authorities which was ambiguous and open to interpretation. The guidance for parents states clearly that:

*'Children with at least **one parent or carer** who is critical to the COVID-19 response can attend school if required.*

However, many families with a parent or carer working in critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading'.

If you now feel that you are eligible to send your child to school because they cannot be cared for at home, please complete the Keyworker Survey from the link below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=geOO4sr_6EGB8iHPUsezDHWmdILS0JBGrJwkc0FAdmxURTIBSTAzVkfTRENES0g3NDVRWEZDWjIBNy4u

We have limited places available due to the necessity of keeping this provision at the correct scale to protect both our staff and the children who attend. If the provision is too large it negates any benefits of the social distancing measures the government has imposed and through associated contacts children and staff will be exposed to unacceptable risk. This is not 'business as usual' or a holiday and all medical advisers are clear that the safest place for children and parents to be is at home with as little social contact as possible. These childcare places are intended for families who have no other adult at home to look after children and who are immediately required in the response to this virus.

I am asking all parents to reflect on whether their children can stay at home. We have a significantly reduced staff team and this is likely to get smaller in the coming days and weeks and as such we should only be supporting children that are vulnerable and those of key workers who need to work on specific days.

We will be delivering childcare and normal education provision cannot be provided in one mixed age class. The children will not always be working with their normal class teacher, as we manage a rota of staffing which allows school to continue to run in the current climate. We will however do our best to ensure that your child has an enjoyable time and that some learning will take place but it will not be anything like their usual school day.

As it stands at the moment we will not be open during the Easter holiday, but we understand that this may need to change.

We apologise for any further distress this ambiguity in guidance by the UK government has caused.

Thank you for your understanding and patience at this difficult time. We will endeavour to do all we can to keep our community safe and appreciate your support at this time.

Yours sincerely

Danielle Brown

Mrs Brown
Headteacher