Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 4**

Thank you for your patience during this time of uncertainty. **As we announced on Wednesday, prior to the Prime Minister’s announcement, we were having to close due to health and safety issues. These included having family members of our community being tested positive therefore aspects of direct contact, reduced staff due to self-isolation or social distancing criteria, including no caretaker.**

This morning we have received the DfE guidance on the critical criteria regarding Key workers.

It is clear from the guidance that the intention is to remain open to a limited few pupils for community safety. The document states , ‘..**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. 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.’**

**Vulnerable children**

**‘**Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, ‘looked after’ children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.’ **there is no need to contact the school if your child is in this group as Mrs Quigg or Mrs Ryder or Miss Dodd will be contacting you today.**

It is essential to note that schools will be open only for the children of those deemed

Key workers and vulnerable children (children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), children who are working with a social worker and children who are looked after). The Cabinet Office has issued a list of essential workers last night at 12:11am which can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/3dfKf2Y>

The government have said:

Please follow these key principles:

1. **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**

2. If a child needs specialist support, 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 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.

5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

The government define key workers as parents whose profession falls within one of the following categories:

The list attached identifies which staff are classified as key workers. The guidance also states that:

**‘If workers think they fall within the critical categories… 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.’**

**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 distributers 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 arm’s 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 it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**

As such, we need information to determine our priorities as a school moving forward.

I understand that many people will be concerned and will face a difficult time over the coming weeks. However, by working together I am confident we will ensure that we get through the next few weeks/months and support those most in need while keeping the essential workers in a position that they can maintain their invaluable work.

**We will contact all parents who qualify and confirming that they can send their children to school on Monday.  If you do not receive a call your child/ children should not attend school.**

**PUPILS IN SCHOOL FROM MONDAY – SPECIFIC CHILDREN**

Our **opening hours** will be 7:45am – 3:30pm **THE ANNEX WILL NOT BE OPEN**

**Curriculum is suspended.**

If your child is being cared for at school it is **non uniform** and they should **bring with them the home learning pack and/or exercise books already provided.**

Thank you for your continued support.

We will continue to use Text service, Twitter and the Website to update you in this ever changing situation and thank you for your support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Butterworth Mrs K Kennedy & Ms L Williams

Headteacher Co- Chair of Governors