

Dear Parents and Carers

Following an eleventh hour change of plan, you will be aware from the media that it has been announced this evening at 8pm that schools are to remain closed to all but essential workers and vulnerable children. **As you can imagine, the late announcement will make it impossible to open tomorrow for Covid Care. This will take a minimum of 24 hours to get set up. But please rest assured we will open up at the very first opportunity and the staff will prepare work for home learning which they will upload to school spider as well as prepare physical packs. More details will follow shortly. The Governing Board have agreed to school remaining closed tomorrow to enable us to put these plans in place.**

It is with a very heavy heart that for the second time within 12 months I must ask you to consider if you are eligible for child care. The latest guidance is: (Updated 31 January 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Vulnerable Children include those

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Key Workers

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

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:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff

- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (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
- 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- 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 and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- 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
- waste disposal sectors

As with the previous lockdown, we will ask that you consider if you are eligible. If there is an adult at home, your child/ children will be safest to stay with you at home. We will also ask that you only utilise the childcare facility when you are working (to coincide with your shifts).

Unlike the first lockdown, we will be offering before and after school club (TASC) but this will be a chargeable service and will only be offered to those children who are eligible for Covid Care service during the school day.

Please use the following link if you believe you are eligible for child care (as outlined above) **and** will need/ intend to access it. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X8QKYCH>

I do understand the predicament and difficulty that this situation will create for so many of our families. Please understand that we are committed to supporting you through this period. The staff are working hard to move back to remote learning and will continue to upload work to School Spider/ Tapestry as they did before. We will also prepare physical packs that will be available for collection.

I am expecting to take delivery of 6 laptops from the Government Scheme to support home learning. Please note that as there are only a small number we will need to prioritise who receives these- this is another predicament. I will be contacting families in the near future, once they are received and set up for use.

We sincerely hope that this enforced partial closure of schools is very brief and we can welcome you all back to school safely as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Jo Hawkins

Head Teacher