



20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you about the arrangements for accommodating children during the school's closure.

I know that this is a difficult time for all of us and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support, patience and kind words at this time. I know that many of you have asked me to pass on your thanks to our fantastic team who are responding to this national emergency with compassion, professionalism and determination. They are truly brilliant.

As you know, the government have ordered **all schools to close** to help to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. However, schools have been asked to provide 'limited provision' for a small group of children who are most vulnerable or whose parent/s are critical workers – people whose work is **critical to the country** at this time. This provision is offered to keep everyone safe and to allow critical workers to go to work to care for the sick or to keep the food supply chains moving.

In line with this need, in some cases, we may have to prioritise offers of places on our 'emergency roll', according to capacity, need and health advice from Public Health England. **Our situation and capacity will be reviewed daily.**

In terms of care for children of 'critical workers' the highest priority group will be for families where **both** parents are critical workers or where a **sole parent** is a critical worker. This is to ensure that our offer of provision is having the **greatest beneficial impact**.

### **What do parents need to do if they think they might meet the criteria for a place on the emergency roll?**

**Thanks** to all the parents who have already spoken to us about their status and who have provided the correct workplace ID – this has really helped us to get a clear picture of possible numbers. If you believe that you meet that you meet the critical worker criteria and you would like your child to be considered for a place on the emergency roll you must contact the school office asap – and by Monday morning at the very latest. I hope that parents and carers will understand that at this time, **office staff have been directed to ask questions to fully determine the level of priority**. You will also be asked to show your workplace ID so that we can do our best to prioritise the needs of families appropriately. **Only children with an offer of a place should attend**. We will use this information to offer places on our emergency roll based on our capacity. **As the situation develops we will have to review this daily.**

The guidance from the government makes very clear that:

- **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
- **Parents should do everything they can to ensure that children are not mixing socially in a way that can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.**

If your work is critical to the coronavirus response, or you work in one of the critical sectors outlined below **and you cannot keep your child safe at home** then your child/ren will be prioritised for consideration for a place on our emergency roll:

- **Health and Social care** – this include doctors, nurses, midwives, social workers etc
- **Education and childcare** – this includes nursery and key school workers e.g. teachers and others who must remain active during the coronavirus response
- **Key public services and local and national government**
- **Food and other necessary goods** – this includes those involved in food production, and those involved in providing key goods such as medicine
- **Public Safety** – this includes police and the armed forces
- **Transport** – this includes people whose work supports the national response to the coronavirus, for example road and rail passenger and freight transport
- **Utilities, communication and financial services** – this includes gas, electricity and water sectors

For more detail on this guidance from the government, please go to:

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

We will keep you updated during this time.

Thank you again for your continued support and positivity.

Yours sincerely

**L E Caswell**  
Executive Headteacher

