



Latest Update
(20/03/20, 7.30am)

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, school will close at home-time today for the majority of children until further notice.

Following the guidance, as I see it we have 2 roles as a school:

- The **first** is to help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. This is why schools have been asked to remain open only for those who absolutely need to attend. The fewer children in school, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.
- The **second** is schools are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children who school will be in contact with today in addition to children of Key Workers.

The following children will be prioritised for care in school as their parents are **Key Workers**:

Nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, frontline health and social care staff, nursery and teaching staff, social workers, specialist education professionals, key public services, those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods. Public safety and national security and those involved with air, water, road and rail transport. If you are unsure, please contact school or your employer.

We would also ask that Key Workers only use us for the days when they themselves are working, and let us know in advance of which days their children will attend each week so that we can plan for the right number of staff to be on site at any one time. If you are able to organise your children to be looked after (for instance, if one parent/carer could be at home), then please do so in order to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

From Monday, school will be run as a childcare setting. This means that normal lessons will not take place, with creative, sporting and ICT activities taking place. We are also letting children and members of staff come in casual clothes for as long as we are open as childcare, but it is important to stress that all school rules and sanctions will remain in place and we will continue to expect the highest of behaviour from all children.

Depending on numbers, we are anticipating running the child care in 3 phases, i) Children in Nursery, FS2 and Year 1; ii) Year 2, 3 and 4; iii) Year 5 and 6, to make sure the activities are appropriate to their ages.

- Childcare will be available from 8am – 4pm for all children from Nursery to Year 6
- If children arrive from 8am up until 8.30am, we will provide a breakfast free of charge
- For those in school, we are providing cooked meals at lunchtime for Free School Meals children
- If children are not entitled to Free School Meals, or Universal Free School Meals, could you please provide a packed lunch

It is important to remind everyone that this is dependent on school having enough staff fit and able to work to run school safely. If this changes, and we have to close completely, the Local Authority take over responsibility for finding child care for children entitled to it. The 14-day self-isolation if anyone in the family starts with symptoms remains in place.

There are a number of links on the Parent Zone of the school's website to e-learning resources. If you are not a Twitter user, I would strongly encourage you to sign up and follow the school feed as many people are sharing some helpful resources, links and ideas.

Thank you for the wonderful messages of support we have been receiving and your understanding at what is a very difficult time for us all.

Mrs Julie Allen MBE
Headteacher