

Dear Parents

As you are aware our school will be closing today for the foreseeable future and all the staff want to wish you well in the coming weeks. We will however be keeping in touch with you and supporting you whilst you are with your children at home.

The government has asked us to keep schools open for the children of Key Workers and the vulnerable and this letter addresses these issues. This is not a statutory requirement but schools and our staff want to help as part of the national response and provide care for the limited number of children who fall into these categories and cannot be safely cared for at home. This will be a very different kind of provision than schools normally provide, for these pupils, as it will be about care rather than education. This is about keeping safe and allowing key workers (such as NHS staff) to go to work and care for the sick or to keep food chains moving. All expectations regarding education provision have been lifted.

There are three phases of planning at the moment.

Phase 1 - the next two weeks

Phase 2 – Easter Holidays

Phase 3 – Summer Term

Our first course of action is to establish those parents who really cannot care safely for their children at home due to the fact that they are key workers. Once we have established this we will be able to arrange care in school for the children that really need it.

After this is sorted we will then be inviting children who are on the vulnerable list but this may not be until AFTER Monday so please bear with us while we sort the key worker children first.

I urge you to take note of all the government advice and particularly the latest information regarding [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#)

Please read the following extract from the latest guidance we have received in school.

‘As a country we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

*That is why 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.’*

....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.

Please note the following key principles so that we can together fight this virus as a community.

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

2. 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 conditions.
3. 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.

A form will be sent out shortly for you to register yourself as a Key Worker who may need childcare provision at school.

Our thoughts are with all of our families during this time and we wish that you stay well and happy until we can all be together again.

Sue Knight

Head Teacher