

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware the school closes today for the vast majority of children in order to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus. The government has requested that schools stay open to provide support to parents of children who are vulnerable and whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response.

The latest guidance from the government has stated that parents should keep their children at home wherever possible and asked schools to remain open for those children who absolutely need to attend. The fewer children in school, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect individuals, both children and staff. So if it is at all possible for your children to be at home, then they should be.

The latest guidance from the government sets out the criteria for the key workers who are critical to the response to the Covid-19 virus. Where only one parent in the household is a key worker, the school would expect the other parent to care for their children. Of course single parents providing services critical to the Covid-19 response will be supported. Therefore, if you feel you fall into this category and will need to access child care then please contact school a.s.a.p. informing us which day/s and also am/pm or full day.

This is the link to the guidance regarding key workers.

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

Provision in school will be based on care rather than education and will be staffed by the teachers and teaching assistants, who are able to work. Children will not be in separate classes and will not just be cared for by their class teacher. The exact arrangements will be decided once the school has a clearer indication of the numbers of children attending. School dinners will continue to be served as normal, but you will need to send your child in with a snack.

Please note that if you are entitled to Free School Meals (Not UIFSM – Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) and would like a lunch provided, then a 'Grab bag' will be prepared daily and can be collected from school between 11.00a.m. and 12 p.m.

Take care and keep safe.

Mrs P McGuffie

Head teacher