

Littledean Church of England Primary School

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Loving one another, building each other up

20th March 2020

Dear Parent,

School Closures and Partial Opening

As you will be aware, as part of the country's ongoing response to COVID-19, schools, colleges and early years settings have been asked to close to everyone except children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday 23 March 2020.

We need to do all we can to stop the spread of COVID-19. That is why the government has given clear guidance on self isolation, household isolation and social distancing. 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.

We have now had clarity as to who we will be able to come into school during the closure period. This is the guidance that we will follow to determine who school will provide care for. I have attached the decision tree that we will be using to determine if your child, is a child **who absolutely has to be in school** to ensure that you as parents can attend work as a key worker.

Key workers have been defined as working within:

- Health and Social Care
- Education and Childcare
- Key Public service (justice systems, those responsible for the management of the deceased, those delivering front line service, journalist and broadcasters who are providing a public service broadcasting)
- Local and National government (only administrative occupations essential to the delivery of the COVID 19 response, working in benefits, arms length bodies)
- Public Safety and National security
- Transport (Those who keep air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport operating)
- Utilities, communication and financial services

If you work within one of these sectors, you need to confirm with your employer if your role is critical in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please do not ask the school to make exceptions – if you do not fit the categories described above, your child/children cannot attend school.

Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. Our offer to parents and carers means there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

For vulnerable children, your child's social worker will work with you to assess the best option for your child.

Head Teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

I anticipate that we will only have a reduced staff in school, we are all in the same position as you, and we have to follow the government guidance about self isolation if our health requires us to. With this in mind, the children will not be in their usual classroom but will be working with other children from across the school. Children who attend the setting will be expected to spend the whole day with us 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. School meals will be available for those who require them, please ensure your parentpay account is in credit. We expect the children to be wearing normal clothes not school uniform. We are only able to accept children in to school where it has previously been arranged.

If you belong to one of the groups shown above, you are now required to complete the form found at the bottom of this letter and return it to school as soon as possible. This can also be emailed to the school office – admin@littledean.gloucs.sch.uk

I fully appreciate that this has all come at the last minute. I would ask you to be mindful of the fact that this has also challenged us as a school and remember that we are doing our very best to support not only parents of Littledean but our wider local community.

Thank you for your understanding and your continued support.

Hayley McGoldrick
Head Teacher

