

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know we are closing Pensans School on Monday 23rd March and Tuesday 24th March to **ALL** children. During this time we will be planning provision for children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Groups who have been identified by the Government.

**Please look at the Key worker information below and email [messages@pensans.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:messages@pensans.cornwall.sch.uk) to inform us if you are a Key Worker and we will contact you on Monday 23rd March to ask if you need to send your child/children to school.**

### **Key Workers**

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. ***Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.***

***Children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the government can send their children to school if required (from government guidance 19/03/20).***

### **Key principles:**

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

**2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.**

**3. 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.**

**4. 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.**

### **Key Workers are:**

#### **Health and social care**

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

#### **Education and childcare**

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

#### **Key public services**

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

#### **Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

#### **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

#### **Public safety and national security**

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

### **Transport**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

### **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

### **Vulnerable Groups**

Vulnerable Pupils includes

- Children who are supported by social care
- Those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers,
- Disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

**We will be contacting parents of children in these groups on Monday 23rd March.**

### **Free School Meals**

- **If your child is eligible for a free school meal we will contact you on Monday 23rd March**
- ***Children entitled to Free School Meals who are not coming to school for their education will be provided meals for collection only from our school kitchen.***
- ***Parents need to arrange for collection of the meal from the collection point.***

***This will begin on Wednesday 25th March. Parents will need to let the school office know each day by 9.00am if they will be collecting a meal from our kitchen. You can do this by phone 01736363627 or emailing [messages@pensans.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:messages@pensans.cornwall.sch.uk)***

***I am very proud of our staff, children and community. We are working together at a time of uncertainty and continuous change. I recognise that this is a very difficult time for all of us and I appreciate the kindness and support of everyone in our school and in the wider community.***

***We will always communicate with you as quickly and clearly as we can. Children who will not be returning to school will be able to access their learning from home and I am aware that this huge change may have some initial teething problems - I thank you in advance for your patience.***

***Your children are a credit to you and the team at Pensans is dedicated to their well being and learning. This will not change.***