



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We contacted you yesterday to inform you of the government's decision to close schools from Friday 20th March for the majority of pupils.

“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.”

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Final confirmation of key workers has now been received.

The Government states “If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision”:

- Health and social care
- Education and child care
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Further detail within each of these categories can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Children in care, with an EHCP or a social worker are considered to be vulnerable, however there may be some degree of flexibility to manage individual circumstances. We will contact parents who we believe may fall into this category to ascertain if you need your child to be in school.

We are ready to continue to provide child care for the children of key workers or those who are vulnerable from now on, including all holiday periods.

As made clear within the government guidance we need to keep the number of children attending to a minimum and will need to prioritise those families *where both parents/carers are key workers or where the sole parent is a key worker*. However, if only one parent in a two parent family is a key worker and childcare is essential, please email us and let us know and we will endeavour to accommodate your child (email: secretary@pennoweth.cornwall.sch.uk). To help us assess the level of support we need to provide, **if you are a key worker please could you complete the online survey by 12 noon today. The link to the survey is: <https://forms.gle/2ZZ1FdrUrzTyvpcA7>** Please do complete this even if you contacted us regarding key worker status yesterday.

We are doing everything possible to be open on Monday morning as usual (from 7.45- 6pm) for the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils.

If we are able to offer you a child care place we will contact you to confirm arrangements, please do not bring your child to school until you have been contacted to confirm a place.

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding during this difficult time.

Best wishes

Cathryn Andrews
Headteacher



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