

Newchurch Community Primary School
Glebeland
Culcheth
Warrington
WA3 4DX



Telephone: 01925 763427
Fax: 01925 766045
www.newchurchprimary.co.uk
Email: newchurch_primary@warrington.gov.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

4th January 2021

Dear parent/carer,

As you are very aware, the government has made clear its commitment that primary schools should be prioritised to remain open and that any restrictions on education would only be a last resort and would only be initiated by central government. In all circumstances, in all settings, vulnerable children and the children of critical workers should have access to full-time provision.

However, should the government change their minds and ask schools to implement their contingency plans thus work remotely, we wish to be prepared in order to make sure the transition to learning from home is as smooth as it can possibly be. Please do not think this letter is us knowing something before it is made public – as you know, we find out when you do.

Who is classed as a vulnerable child?

According to the guidance published at the start of January, vulnerable children include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
- children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
- adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
- those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
- those living in temporary accommodation
- those who are young carers
- those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
- care leavers



LOTTERY FUNDED



Warrington Inclusion Hub
Committed to Inclusion
2018-19



- others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Due to the sensitivity of the discussion needed for those children who we believe fit into this category, we will contact the parents individually via telephone later today to discuss a place in school should we be asked to work remotely.

Who is classed as a critical worker?

Government guidance states that parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following list:

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:

- childcare
- support and teaching assistant staff
- social workers
- 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
- 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arms length bodies

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

- production



LOTTERY FUNDED



- 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- 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 and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- 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
- waste disposal sectors

If you believe that you fit the above criteria for critical worker status, please could we ask you to complete the following google form so we can begin to build our database:

<https://forms.gle/ECYsVnrV3U2ijWpR8>

As you can appreciate this is a large list and could include a large number of children whose parents are critical workers. To ensure that numbers are not too high, we are prioritising places for critical workers to if both parents/carers hold critical worker status, or you are a single parent with critical worker



status. If you have other childcare support, including one parent/carer working from home, this must be used instead in order to keep the numbers down and keep everyone safe.

As always, we will keep you updated as soon as we are informed of any changes but would appreciate a speedy response to the google form – ideally by today!

Should it be announced schools are closing we will keep you well informed, but please bear with us whilst we make sure everything is done to make sure you are communicated with as fully as possible.

Many thanks in anticipation of your continued and valued support during this time of uncertainty.

With kindest regards,



Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher



LOTTERY FUNDED



Warrington Inclusion Hub
Committed to Inclusion
2018-19

