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Miss Avril Stockley
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Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 Update: Key Workers, Vulnerable Families and Partial Opening

Late last night, the government published further guidance to schools on 'partial opening' from Monday 23rd March.

The aim of partial opening is to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus by limiting travel and social contact, whilst supporting the NHS and other vital services by ensuring children of key workers are cared for whilst their parents are at work.

At our school, this means that some children will continue to be able to come to school if their parents are essential to the country's COVID-19 response or if families need additional support.

The government advice is clear:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home safely, then they should.
2. If a child needs additional support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then we will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are in a 'risk' category, such as elderly relatives or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should do all they can to make sure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus.

The government has identified the following categories of worker whose efforts may be critical to the COVID-19 response:



School Travel Plan



Health and social care

- Frontline health and social care staff;
- Staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector;
- Workers in the health and social care supply chain.

Education and childcare

- Nursery and teaching staff and social workers and education professionals who must remain active to deliver this approach.

Key public services

- 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

- Administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or essential public services such as the payment of benefits.

Food and other necessary goods

- 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

- Police and support staff,
- Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to defence and national security and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic),
- Fire and rescue service employees (including support staff),
- National Crime Agency staff,
- Border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles.

Transport

- Those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating.

Utilities, communication and financial services

- Staff needed for essential financial services provision (workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure),
- The oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage),
- Information technology and data infrastructure sector
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (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.



School Travel Plan



If you believe you are a key worker in one of these categories and are unable to organise childcare at home, please contact the school office today to request a place for your child/ren from Monday 23rd March.

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At present, we can only offer a maximum of 44 places to children of key workers and vulnerable families. This may mean that we need to prioritise which children are able to attend. If we are unable to provide a place for your child, we will direct you to the local authority who will be able to identify alternative provision.

I know, like me, you will feel extremely proud of our staff for continuing to provide for the children of other critical workers in our country at this difficult time. We will continue to be a proactive part of the national effort to combat this virus.

Kind regards

Miss Stockley



School Travel Plan

