

Coronavirus update 20th March 2020

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

That is why the government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing.

And 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.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

The list of key workers is extensive but please act responsibly in your requests for support. We will try our hardest to accommodate genuine need but bear in mind that school closures have happened to increase safety and reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19. The more children and staff in school, the less effective this becomes. Please, as it says, keep your children safely at home if at all possible.

We have received further clarification - please note that the government do not wish for schools to exceed 20% of their pupils attending school during the partial closure as this would compromise safety and the point of school closures.

The advice is that if you can safely keep your children at home you should do.

To this end, we have to prioritise families where BOTH parents are key workers (or the sole parent is). We are currently collating requests and will confirm places as soon as we can.

To protect our staff, we will be running on minimum staff required from now. The government have made it clear, that schools will not be educational during this period but be offering child care only. There will not be a teaching provision, teachers and support staff will group all children attending together and supervise children in the kinds of activities they would be doing at home.

It is essential that I know by 1pm today if you require child care next week and the exact times, days of your work schedules so that I can create a rota for staff for next week.

We are unsure how Easter provision will look and are working with other schools to look at options for local child care. I'll share information on this next week.

Please bear with us at this challenging time, we have only received this updated information this morning and have a lot to organise.