

Dear Parents and Families,

Following the recommendations of the Government and Public Health England, school will be closing today at 3.30pm and will remain closed for the unforeseeable future.

However whilst the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, **wherever possible**, schools are 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.

The guidance clearly states that:

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

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 by this document:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Thank you to those who have contacted the office about access to school childcare over the forthcoming weeks. Following your request, we would like to ask all families who need the service to complete a short survey. We have sent the link via email and it is also in the 'News' section of our website.

Underlying Health Conditions

We have been informed that health must be the priority, therefore any children with the following health conditions must NOT be in school, irrespective of whether their parents fall into the key worker groups:

***chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis**

chronic heart disease, such as heart failure

chronic kidney disease

chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis

chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), a learning disability or cerebral palsy

diabetes

problems with your spleen – for example, sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed

a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy

being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above) 99th centile for children

Free School Meals Entitlement

We will also be providing **Grab Bag provision only**, to include: A cheese or ham sandwich, a piece of fruit and a cake (A drink **will not** be provided) for all children entitled to free school meals (NOT KS1 universal unless attending the key worker provision).

If you would like to collect your 'Grab Bag' you need to inform school by 9.30am at the latest each day. They will then be available from the school office from 12pm.

Arrangements for next week

The main school gates will be locked and children should be brought to school through the main reception in order to register them. Any parents who have not completed the survey will need to do so before leaving their children in our care.

Wearing of uniform will not be compulsory through this period. Comfortable clothes should be worn as the children will still be accessing PE.

PLEASE THINK!

Government guidance states: If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. So if one parent is a key worker and the other does not work, they will be able to look after the children. Also if you work part time the child only needs to attend when you are at work. Have you ensured that you are only using the facility when absolutely necessary and no other options for childcare are available?