

Dear Parents and Carers,

Childcare provision for keyworkers' children and vulnerable children

As you are aware, the school will close at the end of today as directed by the UK government. We have been asked to provide childcare for the children of **key workers** and for **vulnerable children**.

The purpose of school closures is to aid **social distancing** to reduce the spread of the virus. For this reason, it is important that we only open to children who **absolutely need** the care to allow key services to continue to function and those deemed vulnerable.

Only children who have received a direct invitation to attend school on Monday will be allowed to attend. We will email families once we receive responses from those who self-identify as a key worker and when we have been informed by the Local Authority who is deemed vulnerable.

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 below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Critical Key Workers currently fall within:

Health and social care

Education and childcare

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, and 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 COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in 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

Transport

Utilities, communication and financial services

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed above (from the Government website), and you cannot keep your child safe at home and therefore feel you might be eligible for this emergency childcare for keyworkers please contact the school office today, before midday. You should confirm with your employer that based on their business continuity arrangements your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service. This may need to be verified by the local authority.

Due to the tight timescales and the fact we expect to receive guidance from the government at some stage, who is defined as a key worker may change over time. We will try to provide care from Monday, but in some cases, as we wait for guidance on eligibility, the care may not be offered immediately. If that is the case, we may send further invitations out to families who may be eligible in the future.

If you are currently not a key worker but that changes in the future (eg you are a qualified nurse who is currently not contracted to work in the NHS but choose to return to help) then please contact us when that change takes place.

We will only be able to offer this provision if it is safe to do so. This is dependent upon us having sufficient staff available to ensure the safe running of the provision. If our school has to completely close then we will advise you on how to contact Norfolk County Council, who will seek to redirect you to a local school in our area that your child, or children, can attend.

This is the initial information we have gained from the Government and may be subject to change, we will send updates and clarification when we receive this from the Government or the Local authority.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this constantly changing and evolving situation. We will endeavour to have provision in place as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Heather Benson
Headteacher