



Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 Update: Friday 20 March 2020

Following the release late last night of essential keyworkers and the opening of the school next week for the children of key workers and 'vulnerable' pupils, the following information needs to be shared with you.

Please be aware that school is available to families of key workers if there is no safe alternatives for the family to use. School should be seen as a last resort. This is to support the containment of the coronavirus.

Children of keyworkers: The government's list is included here:

- health and social care
- education and childcare
- key public services
- local and national government
- food and other necessary goods
- public safety and national security
- transport
- utilities, communication and financial services.

A more detailed breakdown of this list can be found at the link below

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

Parents/carers now need to complete the form that is on the school website. This will allow the school to make plans for next week that include learning activities and registers. We are asking that you indicate which days your child will be in as we are aware that these depend on shift patterns/work days.

In relation to pupils being in school, please be aware of the following:

- school will operate normal hours/times as current with a morning and afternoon registration. This may change at a later date

- pupils will need to bring school equipment, including PE kit in on Monday. We will make arrangements for PE kit to be stored in school if it is not needed on Monday.
- pupils will be required to wear school uniform as this will assist with safeguarding and clear identification of our pupil body
- normal school rules and expectations will be in place for attendance, punctuality and behaviour. We need our pupils, and the majority already do this, to be responsible and co-operative at all times.

The school is aware that many key workers have made alternative arrangements to have their children looked after away from school, or to stay at home. There is no requirement for parents/carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to.

Do please note that, for next week, the school is not teaching a planned scheme or curriculum offer. It is a basic childcare provision centred around learning and group activities. The school has members of staff who are self-isolating and who are supporting their own families. The offer will be refined when things settle down.

Vulnerable Children: The school will be open for vulnerable children, and staff in school will contact the families of all children who can attend school. Again, provision will be limited.

School Meals: Arrangements are in place for Free School Meals (FSM) and hot/cold meals to be made available each day the school is open. The school meals service will serve meals in school.

For pupils who are entitled to FSMs and who are in school, these will be served as they currently are.

Pupils who are entitled to FSMs and who are not attending school can collect meals from school from 12 noon, each day, on a collection and go home basis. We will be contacting all families directly if this includes your children.

Going forward, school may move to a voucher offer and/or will deliver FSM packs to other locations for pupils to collect and pick-up.

Home Learning: The school has already communicated details as to where work can be located and what support is available. This can be sourced on the school's website and VLE. Team Leaders will be updating work on a weekly basis. School will not be providing video conferencing or Skype lessons.

We are mindful that home learning does require access to the internet. Please discuss with your child how they will manage their data usage on their mobile phones, should this be the device they use to access work.

Subject teachers have provided topic related reading activities, texts and novels.

Examinations: As of yet we know very little, except that the Secretary of State for Education has confirmed that examinations will not go ahead this academic year. Further guidance will be issued on how examination grades will be awarded. Whilst this is frustrating and a disappointment for all of us, we will support all our Year 11s as best we can. Updates will follow in due course.

Updates: Do please keep checking on the school's website for update information. Going forward, from next week, school may not need to communicate on a daily basis. However, do rest assured that school will update all families with key information and details as things develop.

School is currently working to an incredibly tight timescale to turnaround this provision and we would ask everybody to show patience and understanding in this extremely challenging situation.

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths
Headteacher