



Deanery C.E. Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Jayne Lockett, BSc (Hons), PGCE, NPQH



20 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Key Workers

As you will be aware, the government announced on Wednesday that schools across the country will close on Friday for most children.

Mr Johnson continued to refer to schools being available to support the work of 'Key Workers' and to be open to vulnerable children.

Further guidance was received this morning to clarify actions the country needs to do to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Government has provided clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing and clarified if children can stay safe at home, they should in line with the most scientific advice to further limit the spread of COVID-19.

The fewer children making the journey to school and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk of the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in the wider community.

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.

Government has provided these specific key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision may be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be **prioritised** for education provision:

Address: Fox Hollies Road, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B76 2RD

Telephone: 0121 351 6441/6615 Facsimile: 0121 313 0320 Email: enquiry@deanery.bham.sch.uk Website: www.deanery.bham.sch.uk



Academy Status - A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company No. 07667168.

Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

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

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to 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.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

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

This is a vast list and as you can appreciate for schools to maintain a safe provision school leaders will make the decisions whether it is safe to open a facility based on staffing numbers and ongoing risk assessments and in consultation with the chair of governors, whether a full or partial closure may be necessary. This decision will be reviewed daily.

With this in mind, please can you inform school if you believe you meet the key worker criteria and would like your child to be considered for a place in the 'reduced' provision. It would also be beneficial to aid our planning / scheduling for you to detail your specific needs for the next 4 weeks. Until I have numbers and I am unable to assess the impact on a depleted workforce I cannot guarantee all request can be accommodated. However, I would like to be able to offer the same level of service i.e. from 7.30am – 6pm. (If there is a requirement for the extended hours other than the school day we will require you to register and pay for this service unless you are already registered)

To clarify, school will close on Friday. Parents will be notified when it will reopen to provide the reduced provision offer for certain pupils. Some families will receive an offer of a place to attend school during this time of wider closure. Only families with an offer of a place should attend the school.

Our aim is to provide a suitable resource from Monday; however, the administration process will take time and therefore the provision *may* not be available immediately.

In order for Deanery to plan an approach to accommodate this requirement, we require confirmation of numbers of children this applies to.

I would therefore need a response on the attached template by return or 12 Midday whichever is the sooner, in order for decision's to be coordinated and plans put safely in place. The priority as you can appreciate are children of key workers where there are no viable alternative childcare arrangements.

Until I receive confirmed numbers of children further plans cannot be shared. However, please rest assured that all we are all continuing to work together to provide the care and support for the children in our community.

Please respond by email by 12 midday or sooner where you are able

Jayne Luckett (Mrs)
Head Teacher

In order for us to assess demand – please complete the following information
(also available as an attachment to email)

Childs Name	
Year Group	
Parent 1 Key Worker Category From above list (<i>evidence will be required</i>)	
Parent 2 Key Worker Category From above list (<i>evidence will be required</i>)	
Comments to support request	

23/3/20	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
Foxes AM					
School					
Foxes PM					

30/3/20	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
Foxes AM					
School					
Foxes PM					

6/4/20	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
Foxes AM					
School					
Foxes PM					

13/4/20	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
Foxes AM					
School					
Foxes PM					