

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The Government have now released further information about the school closures. They have made it clear that parents are being asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and that schools remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

More information is available via these links (you may need to copy and paste them into your browser):

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

This list identifies all the roles that are regarded as 'keyworkers' and who need to still go to work if your employer has said they are still working.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Please note that if you fall into the critical categories in the list you should confirm with your employer that you are required to continue working at this time and, if you are, please let us know (we will phone you again today to establish this unless you call us first).

You can of course follow Government requirements to keep your child at home wherever possible, even if you fall into the categories above, but if you need us we will do all we can to support those families who need our support.

Just for information as of this morning: we are dwindling in numbers of staff across our programmes but planning daily to support our most vulnerable children and changing plans as numbers of staff and children change daily. We will always phone you if anything changes for your child.

Some of our EHCP children and children with a social worker can be supported from a distance - we will talk to you personally if this arrangement applies to you. Your child should have work to complete at home and we have a plan to keep in contact with you over the period of closure - this might be every day in some cases or at least several times a week. You can of course contact us at any time - all the usual phone lines are still in operation at this time.

I very much hope there are not too many of you out there who have succumbed to the virus but if you have I wish you a speedy recovery and hope you are all looking after each other and battling through. We are here if you need to ask for help and I will put information on our website for parents and students to refer to in times of anxiety and uncertainty.

Best wishes

Nicola