



Dear parents and guardians

20th March 2020

Childcare Arrangements During the Enforced School Closure

The government have closed all schools from Monday 23rd March and **it is expected that all children should be kept at home wherever possible and this includes those children of essential workers where families are able to make appropriate arrangements.**

However, the government have asked schools to provide a childcare service to those children whose parents work in key jobs and who are not able to arrange childcare as this could result in not being able to maintain critical services at this difficult time. **Our childcare offer will be available between the hours of 8:00a.m. and 2:25p.m.** This will inevitably be subject to our ability to maintain appropriate staffing levels as our first priority has to be towards the health and well-being of our own workers.

There are some pupils who will be offered a place because they are vulnerable. This might be because they have an EHCP or social worker. Other places are for the children of parents working in an occupation that appears on the government list which was published overnight and who are unable to make suitable childcare arrangements.

Based on the research we have already done; we believe that having up to 70 places available will be sufficient to cover our needs. However, in the event of over-subscription we will apply the following criteria.

The highest priority will be given to:

- NHS frontline staff,
- Police,
- Fire Service
- Education (these people are providing the childcare)

Further to this, in the event of oversubscription, we will give higher priority to those families where both responsible adults and a single parent work within one of the essential key worker categories.



We will then consider the families where only one parent works within a key worker category.

You must appreciate that we are working under considerable pressure. We learnt on Wednesday evening that the school would be required to close and was being asked to provide childcare to essential workers. We were promised a list yesterday and the list was not published until this afternoon, leaving us today to get everything in place.

When you bring your child we will ask for some basic information to help us ensure that your child is entitled to a place. **Please bring along proof that you work in the profession you have declared such as a letter, badge or lanyard, even if this has already been sent through to us.** Along with this, we would like to see a document such as a contract or payslip which confirms the number of hours that you work. We will also need contact arrangements for your line manager, particularly if it is not obvious to us how your role links with the key worker list.

We will be asking you to sign your child in and out each day.

Furthermore we will expect the highest standards of hygiene to be maintained. Children will need to wear their PE kits, but we ask that items are regularly cleaned at an appropriate temperature to minimize the potential to unwittingly spread of the virus. We will maintain all levels of handwashing and cleanliness that have become a high profile part of our daily routines in school.

This is a condition of our childcare offer and if it becomes apparent that you have breached this, for example if we become aware that someone living with the child is self-isolating or has the virus then the place will be withdrawn. We will also withdraw a place it becomes apparent that the family are not following the principles of social distancing, for example if children are playing in social groups in a local park outside the hours that they are with us, or that parents are not playing a responsible part in limiting the progress of the disease.

We expect to be informed immediately if any member of the household displays symptoms and goes into isolation.

We will provide a daily lunch for all those attending. For parents whose children who would normally have a free school meal this is the free school meal.



Children **MUST** be registered to use this service. We will not accept casual entrants and remind you that the **government advice will be followed through**. If a child develops symptoms associated with the virus at any time whilst in our care they will be immediately isolated from the group and you will be contacted to collect them as quickly as possible.

From Monday 23rd March:

- The children should come into school wearing their PE kits.
- Children should bring a change of outdoor clothes and shoes/trainers.
- Children should bring their water bottles and a fruit snack.

There will be no after school clubs or provisions. Please kindly ensure that you make arrangements for your child(ren) to be collected at 2.25pm promptly.

The school gate will be open from 7.50am and the children will need to be brought to the Hall for registration. **As the parent or carer, you must wait until your child has been registered before leaving them at school.**

Our staff will be on hand to greet the children, check for any medical or dietary needs etc.

They will be brought to the Hall at 2.25pm for dismissal and for your collection. Please ensure that if your child has brought any medication home with them today, they bring it back to school on Monday 23rd March 2020.

If there are any changes to pickups, please call the School Office as normal.

These are challenging times for us all. Please remember that we need to work together in the best interests of your child or children.

We look forward to your continued support.

Yours sincerely
Mrs B Rai
Principal