



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
Calder Road, Rawtenstall, Lancashire, BB4 8HW
Headteacher: Mrs Charlesworth
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School Office: 01706 215893

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

URGENT INFORMATION REGARDING THE CLOSURE OF ALL SCHOOLS

I have now received documentation from the Department for Education providing **guidance** on maintaining educational provision for key workers and identified groups of children. Please read this information carefully.

The DfE have stated that as a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of the virus is clear. **Where possible children should stay safely at home to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

This is why the government has asked parents to keep children at home wherever possible and have asked all schools throughout the country to remain open for only those children who absolutely need to attend.

By having fewer children making the journey to school, and fewer children in school, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

St Paul's school will therefore only provide care for a limited number of children as part of our first phase of response. The reasons for our approach is a falling number of staff due to illness and being unable to resource stock and resources for the last four weeks due to everyone stockpiling. As part of our strategy we have to ensure that we can open for longest period of time for the children and families who have no one else to care for their children, whilst they help on the frontline.

That is to say that we will be open for:

- children who are identified as vulnerable and
- children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and **cannot safely be cared for at home and have no other parent/partner who can care for your child.**

- Who are vulnerable children?
- The government have defined this as being:
- children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans or, on child protection plans.
- Looked After children, and those with
- Educational Health Care Plans

Which parents are critical to the Covid-19 Response? (Key Workers)

Government guidance notes that many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure that their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home SHOULD BE.**





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These are the key principles to follow:

1. If your child can be cared for at home then they should be.
2. 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.
3. Parents should do everything they can to ensure children are NOT mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. Children should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Although we would love to open for everybody we have to ensure we can do the best we can with the limited staff and resources. We currently have no handgel and have limited cleaning staff, and limited staff at every level. This is a very serious situation and the reason why we have to act sensibly putting the most vulnerable and needs led plan into action.

This will be reviewed on Monday and daily for the rest of the named keyworker roles within the GUIDANCE until we can no longer go on.

Key Workers are:

Health and Social Care Sectors:

This includes: 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 Sectors:

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 Service Sectors:

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering 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 that are critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs essential to the Covid-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff,





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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 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, postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

IF YOU THINK THAT YOU FALL INTO ANY OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES THEN YOU SHOULD CONFIRM WITH YOUR EMPLOYER THAT, BASED ON THEIR BUSINESS CONTINUITY ARRANGEMENTS YOUR SPECIFIC ROLE IS NECESSARY FOR THE CONTINUATION OF ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICE.

REMEMBER - WHERE POSSIBLE YOUR CHILD SHOULD REMAIN AT HOME.

Other questions answered...

I am a Critical Worker, or have a vulnerable child but I don't want to send my child to school. Do I have to?

Many parents working in the above critical sectors may be able to ensure that their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home **SHOULD BE**.

There is **NO** requirement for parent and carers to send children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

For vulnerable children, your child's social worker will work with you to assess the best option for your child.

If only one parent or carer is a critical worker, can I send my children to school?

Children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the government can send their children to school if required. **But, remember every child who can be safely cared for at home SHOULD BE.** We will review this again next week once we can ensure adequate and safe provision.

How long will school be closed for?

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak school will be closed until further notice.

What about Tests?

No assessments will take place this summer. This includes phonic screening, Multiplication tests, & SAT's.





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Free School Meals:

We know that free school meals are important for many families. We will therefore contact those eligible today to discuss interim arrangements with you. This does not apply to those in receipt of universal infant free school meals.

Support for Home Learning:

School has had limited time to prepare! That said...

- Every child will to come home with some home learning resource materials, pencil cases and books to put their work into.
- We will, regularly, via our class pages on our school website set work and activities for your child. We would ask that whilst your child is at home you set a structured time aside each day for them to complete this. A suggested routine can be accessed from the class webpage.
- We have provided a list of useful websites - Please do look at these with your child and complete online learning activities. Your child's class teacher may also direct you to some of these activities. We will aim to continue to update and add to the list provided.
- We would like also to keep in contact with you. We will aim to do this via e-mail. Staff members will be tasked with monitoring a whole school mail box school@constablelee.lancs.sch.uk Where possible your child's class teacher will aim to respond to you during the course of a normal school day. I would like to say that this arrangement will be new to us so please do bear with us.
- Do try to support the mental health and well-being of both you and your child by trying to complete some fun activities together (baking, cooking, art, gardening) - this will help to develop other essential life skills (as well as reinforce lots of English and Maths skills).
- More information will follow about what the DfE is doing to support parents. They are working with the BBC and others to provide resources for children to access while at home.

I am aware that this is a lot of information to take in. I would ask for your help in this time of national crisis. We will do our best to help look after you and your family. Our own staff levels are very much reduced as time moves on and I have already begun to meet with colleagues from neighbouring schools and nurseries to ensure that we can continue to respond to the Covid-19 response.

PLEASE DO REMEMBER THAT DURING THIS NATIONAL CRISIS WE ARE ONLY MEANT TO PROVIDE FOR ESSENTIAL KEY WORKERS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN WHERE NO OTHER ARRANGEMENT FOR CHILD CARE CAN BE MADE.

Kind Regards

Mrs S Charlesworth

Headteacher

