

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following me writing to you all yesterday, the guidance on maintaining **Educational Provision** was published last night by the Government and it establishes some key principles that will help us plan for next week and beyond.

- **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
- The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can stay safely at home, they should as this will limit the chance of the virus spreading.**
- Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents (aged 70+), friends, or family members with underlying conditions
- 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**
- The government has asked parents to **keep their children at home, wherever possible**, and asked schools to remain open only for those **children who absolutely need to attend**
- The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children. These have been identified as children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response (Key Workers) and therefore cannot be cared for at home during the working day.

### **Vulnerable Children Definition**

The government defines vulnerable children as those who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with an EHCP.

### **Children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home (Key Workers) Definition**

The governments' definition of sectors where employment could be crucial to the Covid-19 response is set out on the next page in more detail, but the broad areas are listed below.

However, the government asks that every child who can be safely cared for at home should be to limit the spread of the virus.

- 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

### **Registering your child for Educational Provision**

If you have confirmed with your employer that your job is critical to the Covid-19 response and you are not able to safely care for your child at home then we would ask that you visit your school website to register your childcare place(s). When you visit your school website you will see a button on the homepage which will take you to a registration form. You will need to complete a new form for each child you wish to register.

In order for us to plan for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March we would be grateful if you could complete your request by midday on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

### **Catering in School**

We will endeavour to provide a limited food service in school next week. If your child will require a meal, please indicate this on the **Educational Provision Registration** form accessible from your school website.

Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Howard  
Head of School