



*Respect, Courage, Compassion, Friendship, Trust, Perseverance*

20 March 2020

Head Teacher:

Mrs C. McManus

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Coronavirus – School Closure & Provision for Children of Key Workers**

I am writing to update you with the latest information and the School's response to the publication of the key worker list and latest government advice. These are very difficult and challenging times and I thank you for your incredible understanding and support as the School deals with the enormity of the task at hand. We can't express enough how much we appreciate your continuing support.

These are unprecedented times. The government's message is very clear: as a nation we MUST do all we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

School will remain closed until further notice for the majority of the children. However, as a School we are committed to the important task of providing support for key workers. The main message is still to minimise the number of children accessing school each day – with the aim of providing support to 10% of our community. We will have a skeleton staff on a rota to care for those children. Wherever possible, children should stay safely at home. Many parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response may be able to keep their child at home and **every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for your child to be at home, then they should be.
2. 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 an adult.

**In order to adhere to the government guidance to limit numbers and taking in to account our staffing capacity, we have needed to prioritise vulnerable children and those families where both parents are key workers or where a single parent is a key worker. Throughout the day, we have contacted parents and carers who meet this criteria and parents and carers of vulnerable children to assess whether they need to be in school.**

**Vulnerable children:** This included children 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 education, health and care (EHC) plans.

**Who is a Key Worker?** Key Workers have been identified by the Government as:

**Health & Social Care Workers** - this includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers and other front line health and social care workers. It also includes those working in the health and social care supply chain – including those who produce and distribute medicines.

**Education & Child Care** – this includes nursery and teaching staff and those who are vital in keeping the schools open in order to respond to this approach.

**Key Public Services** – this includes those working in the justice system, religious staff and workers delivering key frontline services, including people with responsibility for the management of the deceased and those who provide public service broadcasting.

**Local and National Government** – This is only for those people in administrative roles which are essential to the delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits.

**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, those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security, National Crime Agency Staff, prison and probation staff.

**Transport** – those who keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport operating during the COVID – 19 pandemic – enabling vital supplies to get through.

**Utilities, communication and financial services** – staff who are needed for essential financial services, including bank and building society workers, oil, gas, electricity and water sectors, I.T. and telecommunications – including postal services.

**If you have alternative care for your children, I must stress, that you should ensure your child stays at home.**

Again, thank you so much for your support and understanding. We will keep in touch through the school website, Class Dojo and, for or those parents not on Class Dojo, we will also keep in touch by text.

Home learning packs will be sent home with children today. Packs can also be collected from the school office on Monday. Please note that if you are self-isolating, please make arrangements for your child's pack to be collected. There are also many resources on class pages on our website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible staff team for all their support, commitment and flexibility during this very difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are for each and every one of our families and members of our community.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C McManus

Head teacher

