



20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Further to my letter yesterday, we have just received confirmation of which categories are included in the government's list of critical occupations.

These are:

- 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

For more specific detail surrounding these roles, please go to:

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

**Please note:**

**If you think you fall within the critical categories above you should confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.**

Schools will also be able to accept vulnerable children – those with safeguarding and welfare needs and those with education, health and care plans.

**Before you make the decision to send your child to school please carefully consider the following advice which has been taken directly from government guidelines.**

- If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.



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Mrs R Nicholas – Executive Headteacher

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 8110847



- The fewer children making the journey to school and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread.
- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- Parents should do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus.
- Schools are being asked to provide **care for a limited number of children** (as stated above)

Please also be aware that the activities provided for the children in school, will not differ to those that we have signposted on our website or provided your children with in packs, if the internet is not accessible. We will **not be teaching** your children, as such. It's very important that our children have equal opportunities to access the same provision and we will not discriminate against those children who are unable to attend school because they do not 'qualify'.

It may be that we are unable to open one or more of our TEAM schools due to staff shortage or number of pupils and will contact you individually when we have made final arrangements.

This is undoubtedly a difficult time for us all. I am very aware that staying at home to care for your child may have financial implications for your family. The government has yet to make a fresh ruling on the matter of paid leave with regards to school closures in the midst of the coronavirus crisis. Therefore, as it currently stands, if you need to take time off for the sake of childcare during this pandemic, you should speak to your employer about what they can offer both in terms of paid leave or the possibility of working from home. Parents are entitled to what's known as 'dependant' leave in the event of an emergency, however your employer would be the one to decide if you are paid for this leave.

**If, following this letter, you have re-considered your options, please contact us as soon as possible by phoning or emailing your child's school.**

At times like these, it is so important that we help and support one another – however difficult that may seem. We will all have to make sacrifices in the coming weeks and the cost – not just financially but physically, emotionally and mentally will undoubtedly be very high. At the end of the day, we all have to 'do our bit' to keep ourselves, and those around us, safe and well.

Please take care of yourselves.

Rhian Nicholas  
Chief Executive Office