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Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience in waiting for the list of Key Workers.

The message from the government is this:

- As a country, **we all need to do what we can** to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on **self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing**.
- 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, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**
- That is why 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** - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.
- **Vulnerable children** include children who are supported by social care, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.
- Parents whose work is **critical to the COVID-19 response** include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
- 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.
- **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.**

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, **and you cannot keep your child safe at home** then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

#### **Health and social care**

This includes but is not limited to 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**

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 services**

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key 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 critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, 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 but not limited to 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 (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

**If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service. As a school we will be asking for evidence of their employer's confirmation that their role is essential by next Wednesday.**

As a school, we have already sent home a form for key workers to complete and send in (either as a paper copy or by email) to let us know if your child will be attending school in the coming weeks.

There is the option on the form to let us know if the need for child care will change week by week – that is not a problem for us. This means that I can reduce staffing levels wherever possible to help keep all adults and children as safe as I can.

We have had many questions as to whether it is that both parents that need to be key workers where there is more than one adult in the house. The guidance is clear – if your child can be cared for at home by an adult who is not a key worker then that is what should happen in order to prevent the spread of the disease. I appreciate that there are many under financial pressure but I ask that if you have a non-key worker option then that is used so that we can all look after each other. Let us respect the guidance that has been given to keep our children

safe, our school staff safe and their families. The aim of school closures across the country is to keep the numbers of people out and about as low as possible.

For parents who return a key worker form, we will process this as quickly as possible today and then be in contact with you to confirm immediate arrangements for next week.

Please bear with us today – we will be doing our very best. Both staff and parents are carrying anxieties and pressures right now. Let us be kind to one another and look after each other. We will get everything sorted as soon as we can. The most important thing is that our children and families are safe.

I will be in touch again today. I am sure that you will be relieved when you are no longer getting constant letters from me!

Sam Hunter

Headteacher  
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sam Hunter', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S Hunter  
Headteacher