



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update

As you are aware, **we have been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice**. From Monday we are only allowed to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

Thank you so much to our families for the overwhelming support you are already showing to us in these unusual and challenging times. It is much appreciated.

WE AIM TO SEND A WEEKLY KEEPING IN TOUCH EMAIL ON A MONDAY but this may not happen if we have staff illness. Please keep checking the school website on your child's class page. This will have activities that your child can do.

If you need to contact us the admin@victoriaroad.cheshire.sch.uk address will be monitored daily and we will seek to respond within the day if possible.

Further to the letter sent out yesterday, the Government has now released its list of Key Workers. The list can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>.

The guidance 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 guidance from the Government states

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**.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But **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**.

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:

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

We appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this situation is far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support there will be a further letter to confirm if your child is eligible for the Emergency provision- **if you have requested this.**

Kind regards

Cathy Lord

Head teacher