

GRIMSARGH ST.MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Careers

The 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.

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.

*To help us navigate through these very difficult times and ensure that we can stay open for our most vulnerable children and for children whose parents are fighting this 'on the front line', we are appealing to you for help. Given the need for increased social distancing for as many people, including children, if you have capacity to look after your children at home **please do so**. We do not want to be in a position where we have to close because we don't have the staff to safely look after the children in our care.*

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. **If it is at all possible for children 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 adults.**

The definite list was released at midnight last night stating what roles parents have to have for them to qualify for childcare. However, it does also state clearly that children should remain at home if possible eg with a non- key worker. **The expectation is that those who are not key workers look after children within the home.** **With the above advice. School will only be open for those limited number of families who have no alternative.**

The list of key workers as defined by the government is:

- **School staff**
- **Health care staff** - doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.
- **Staff who provide support for health (e.g. cleaners in hospitals)**
- **Delivery drivers**
- **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
- **Social care staff**
- **Emergency services staff**
- **Local authority staff**
- **Prison and probation service**
- **Military personnel**
- **Transport services personnel** - Those who will keep air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response.
- **Utilities services personnel** Staff required to keep oil, gas, electricity, water and sewerage operations running. Staff in the civil nuclear, chemical and telecommunications sectors

Now we have more clarity, regardless of the information you may have sent to school yesterday, please email by 12 noon today with the following information:

Parent 1

Name:

Job role:

Employer:

Place of Work:

Work Tel Number:

Full Time:

Part Time:

Days provision will be required:

Parent 2

Name:

Job role:

Employer:

Place of Work:

Work Tel Number:

Name of supervisor:

Full Time:

Part Time:

Days provision will be required:

Single Parent: Yes/No

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If you are a critical worker, we are asking you to give us contact details including full name and telephone number of your employer/supervisor so we can confirm that your active role is a necessity in these challenging circumstances. We may also need to get in touch with you via telephone to gain some extra clarification.

I am sorry that this is such a tight turnaround, but obviously the information from the government has only just been released. **Due to the safeguarding of all we will not be able to accept any children into school on Monday unless we have had the form completed and advanced notice of their attendance.**

Once I have all the information, I will inform only those parents of children who are able to access the childcare by later today. If you have not received notification that your child has qualified, please accept this decision and do not use this facility. School is operating on a limited number of staff, due to illness and self-isolation and there is a high possibility of closure if the numbers of children coming into school are not kept at a minimum.

Times are hard, but by working together and ensuring **only limited children** access the provision, we are doing our part to limit the spread of the virus.

Kind regards,

Mrs Warburton

